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MARTLET

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UVic student recovered from October beating

by Micah Luxen

UVic student Mark Gorman is fully recovered after being beaten outside of Felicita's Pub on Ring Road on Oct. 5, and one man has been charged with assault.

Almost two months ago, approximately 15 students met outside the student pub after it closed, resuming an argument from earlier in the evening. Once a fight broke out between two distinct groups, police and campus security were called to the scene, but by the time they arrived, Gorman was unconscious on the ground.

At the time, one caller reported that "'one male has been punched in the face and is lying unconscious on the ground and is bleeding from the head,' which put emergency services on route," said Sgt. John Price, public information officer for the Saanich Police.

Police confirm that Gorman was not a part of the conflict but was a spectator. He did, however, receive a broken jaw and severe head injuries.

"His broken jaw has been wired, he has a fractured skull, a blood clot on one side of his brain, as well as swelling in the brain, a fractured cheek, and pain in the spine," said Gorman's mother, Caroline Gorman, in October.

Jory Tarkanen has been charged with assault causing bodily harm. Police cannot confirm whether Tarkanen is a UVic student or when he will appear in court.

One other man is still under investigation for assaulting a different student involved in the fight.

Gorman is fully recovered from the attack. His jaw has been set, a recent CAT scan confirms that the blood clot in his brain has disappeared and the bruising is healed.

"I'm all right now, as long as I don't get another concussion," said Gorman, who did not return to school for the remainder of the fall semester.

"UVic was good about it," said Gorman. "They dropped the courses and didn't make me pay."

Gorman plans to return to his classes and continue coaching youth soccer again in this coming spring.

Beware the bogus degree

by Victoria Barber

Avoiding post-secondary schools offering bogus degrees in B.C. will be a lot easier now that The Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia (CUFA/BC) has launched a website that will alert students of the dishonest institutions.

BC Degrees (bcdegrees.ca) has been in the works for over a year, prompted by reports that Kingston College was issuing illegal degrees to students despite orders to stop.

"If it's not on our list, it's not legal," said Robert Clift, executive director of CUFA/BC.

The site was originally intended to help prospective students compare the quality of different B.C. post-secondary programs, but this focus changed with Clift's research.

"As I started digging deeper, it just got dirtier and dirtier," he said. The website lists Cape Breton University, Rutherford University and the University of Northern Washington as schools that illegally grant degrees in the province.

"I believe that what Kingston College was doing, other institutions are still doing in B.C." Clift said. "The problem is more widespread than we thought."

As online classes and distance learning become more common, the difference between legitimate schools and phony institutions, or "degree mills," has become harder to spot.

Degree mills typically have prestigious-sounding names and may have websites that appear genuine. The University of Northern Washington has a website featuring a photograph of the University of British Columbia library.

International students in particular may be taken advantage of by illegal degree programs in B.C. because Canada has a strong reputation for its public universities.

Clift said that schools such as Kingston College use "that long-standing tradition of quality institutions to sell product."

Private and out-of-province public universities and colleges are relatively new in B.C. and went largely unregulated until the Degree Authorization Act of 2002. Now, post-secondary institutions in B.C. must pass a review by the Degree Quality Assessment Board to issue degrees or call themselves universities.

With all the new private schools and out-of-province public schools, students need to take a "buyer beware" approach to choosing a university or college.

"We're sorry; the world is an uglier place than you thought—you can no longer trust a Canadian degree," Clift said.

Likuan Tham, secretary of the Worldwide Vancouver University Society Board executive committee, responded to the allegations in an e-mail saying that the "CUFA site, as presently worded, is damaging to British Columbia.... By identifying these entities with B.C. CUFA is making B.C. appear to be a host for dubious entities."

Worldwide Vancouver University is listed as an unaccredited institution in Maine, Michigan and Oregon. It is included on a list of fraudulent or substandard institutions in Texas.

Unlike straightforward degree mills, where "students" can purchase degrees for a flat rate, many unaccredited schools (including Kingston College) hire teachers, hold classes or offer legitimate academic work.

These schools are more likely to attract students who want a quality education but cannot distinguish between accredited and unaccredited degree programs. Once they've committed time and money to completing an unaccredited program, potential employers or graduate programs may regard their degree as worthless.

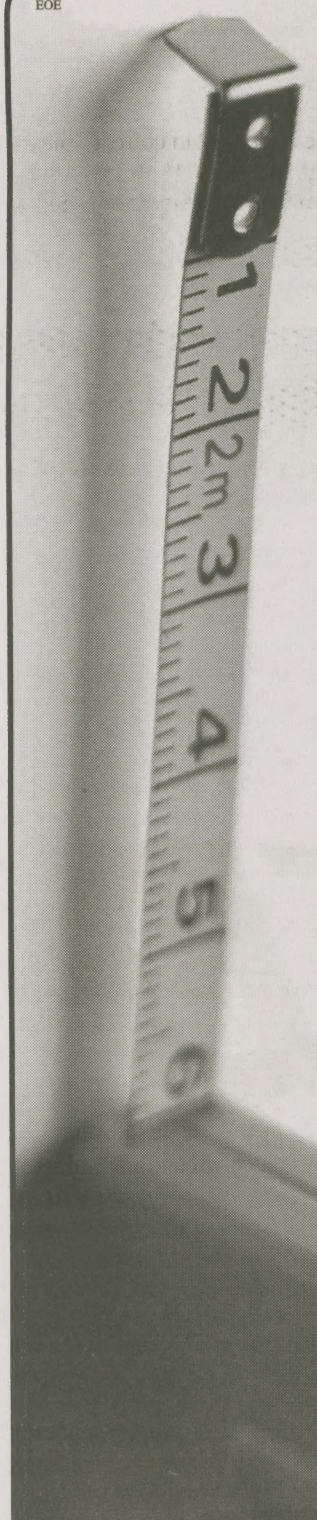
"At least the person who buys a piece of paper from Speedydegree.com knows what they're getting," said Clift.

The BC Degrees website states that the government of British Columbia has failed to adequately inform the public about illegal degree programs in the province, and CUFA/BC decided to "fill this gap" by compiling accurate information about post-secondary programs in B.C.

"Ideally the government would do it," said Clift.

"But if they're not going to do it, then we have to."

EOE



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Taking the cause all the way

UVic alumnus travels world without fossil fuels

by Kim Armstrong

PROVIDED PHOTO

Tim Harvey paddles his way on just one leg of his "man powered" world trip.

In an attempt to make it from Vancouver to Moscow without using a drop of fossil fuel, Tim Harvey found himself cycling through Portugal at night with one gear remaining on his bicycle, racing hurricane season to the Canary Islands in a rowboat, and sitting in a South American jail, waiting for his brother to show up to pay his bail.

Harvey wanted to make it back home using only human power, and after 893 days, he did.

"[The trip was to] encourage people to get out of their cars and live a more active lifestyle," said Harvey, a UVic grad with a bachelor degree in English. "Our planet is collapsing because of global warming, and scientists these days are in absolute agreement that human beings are causing climate change and the only question is how bad it will be. The irony is that the solution to climate change is actually that we just adopt lifestyles that are way better for us."

Harvey thought doing something so extreme would put the alternative lifestyle in perspective "and make it seem very manageable to incorporate cycling to school or to work."

Harvey started the trip with fellow Canadian Colin Angus, but the two went their separate ways after reaching Russia because of philosophical differences.

"It was as I got to Moscow that I got an e-mail from a Turkish explorer, a guy based in Seattle, who invited me to join him on a rowboat, so I just kept riding and I thought, 'Okay, maybe I can make it home without burning any fossil fuels."

Harvey met up with rower Erden Eruc in Portugal after a three-month cycle across Europe. Although the change in plans allowed him to return home without polluting, it doubled the length of his journey.

"It was ... a lot longer than I thought it would be," said Harvey, who left in June 2004. During the course of his journey, Harvey travelled over 35,000 kilometres, averaging between 100 and 150 kilometres a day when cycling. Other means of transportation, such as the rowboat, a sailboat, skis and good old foot power, clocked somewhat different speeds.

Eruk and Harvey had to abandon their plan to cross the Atlantic by rowboat when they got to the Canary Islands because their boat needed extensive repairs.

"We also lost the timing to make it right across the Atlantic to the mainland," said Harvey. "The farthest we would be able to go on that boat before the hurricanes came up again was the Caribbean, if we were lucky."

So Harvey joined up with a crew of young Swedish sailors who were travelling around the world. Their engine happened to be broken, so no emissions were burned while they took him to Venezuela—the land that would eventually lead him home.

On a bicycle again (this time a cheap used bike picked up in South America) and continuing to camp out or take advantage of locals' offers of a bed for the night, Harvey faced the challenge of making it through the jungle and the Darien Gap, a section of Columbia without road infrastructure, without a map.

"Columbia wouldn't give me detailed maps of the region because I didn't have military permission and there's a civil war going on, so they don't want people getting [ahold] of the maps."

So Harvey took a dugout canoe down the Columbian waterways, relying on friendly locals to point him in the right direction. Unfortunately, that direction led him through the heart of Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarios de Colombia (FARC) territory.

FARC, in English, stands for Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and according to the Federation of American Scientists consists of "between 9,000 and 12,000 armed combatants and several thousand more supporters, mostly in rural areas."

In order to disguise himself and to present a less obvious target than a highly visible white canoeist, Harvey painted himself purple with the juice of the Kipara fruit, a practice of the indigenous Embera people that protects the wearer from the sun and repels insects.

Harvey learned the trick too late to protect himself from a malaria-carrying mosquito that infected him on his journey through the jungle. Eventually Harvey had to abandon the canoe and hike to the Panama border.

"As soon as I got to the border, I was travelling illegally, because there was nowhere to get my passport stamped," Harvey said. There are legal ways to cross Panama, but they involve using fossil fuels.

In the mountains, Harvey built himself a balsa wood raft with the help of locals and travelled at night to avoid detection.

"One of the scarier moments of the trip was going down this white water at night. I had an illegal Peruvian on the boat with me because we were sort of helping each other stay alive," said Harvey. "We were just rafting down this river, and we were slipping by villages that were guarded by the military, just pretending we were a log and just hoping they didn't open fire on us."

Unfortunately, the duo was spotted and arrested. Harvey's brother, who was waiting to meet him as he crossed the border, was able to bail him out.

The rest of the trip took place on a bicycle donated by Norco and, for some of the way, in the company of his brother.

"It was interesting, because when I hit Venezuela, I thought, 'Wow, I'm so close. I'm on land that touches Vancouver," Harvey said. Heavy rains and floods followed Harvey on the last two weeks on the road through Oregon and Washington, where he witnessed a house floating down the river.

Despite adverse conditions, Harvey managed to make it home in time for the reunion and press conference he had organized for Nov. 12.

In addition to various sponsors and donations, Harvey funded the trip by publishing articles in *Monday Magazine* and with a *Vancouver Sun* contract that lasted until his arrival in Moscow. The last half of the trip was funded by an advance book contract with Harbour Publishing.

"The focus of the book will be on Tim's many experiences on his journey around the world, his reasons for doing the trip and what he learns along the way," said Harbour Publishing's Kathy Sinclair. "It's an amazing story filled with adventure. Tim's dedication to the environment and his perseverance are truly inspiring."

Harvey's focus now is on finishing the book, to be released in 2007, and then putting together a film from the footage he shot on his travels.

He said he has gotten a lot of positive feedback about the message he is trying to send regarding a healthier, lower-emissions lifestyle.

"I'm trying to just raise that call for people to start living in a healthier way that's more satisfying and brings them more happiness and also does something critical for the planet."

Remembering Montreal

by Dock Currie

On Dec. 1, various campus organizations, including the Anti-Violence Project, the Women's Centre and the Equity and Human Rights Office, will come together in memory of the massacre at the École Polytechnique.

The targeted murder of 14 female engineering students has become, over the years, a representation of violence against women.

"We're recognizing the incident that happened in Montreal in '89, but this year we also really want to draw people's attention to the fact that this is not an issue that's over. Violence against women is still a real issue in our community and on campus," said Lola Freeman Storry, co-coordinator for the UVic Anti-Violence Project (AVP).

Amber Dujay, another co-ordinator of the event and a member of the Equity and Human Rights Office, believes that the government of Canada designated the day of national remembrance because there has not been, before or since, a premeditated and targeted attack of a larger scale against women.

In this respect Angela Cameron, a UVic PhD student on the advisory committee for the FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children, agrees wholeheartedly with Dujay.

Cameron said the event is the ultimate representation of gendered violence, which is "violence against women because we're women, not just because we're in the wrong place at the wrong time but because we're targeted."

"I think it's an incredibly important reminder that even in 2006, gendered violence, including things like sexual assault, violence in intimate relationships, even things like gendered bullying in text messages and e-mail, is a prevalent part of our society; that disproportionately girls and women experience violence at the hands of strangers but also, and more importantly, at the hands of those who they are in trusting relationships with," said Cameron.

The memorial service will feature speakers, including two from the AVP as well as a First Nations prayer and a performance by the Philomena Women's Choir. It starts at 11:30 a.m. on Friday Dec. 1 outside of the MacLaurin Building. Classes will be cancelled on that day from 11:30 until 12:30.

CORRECTION

Byron Kuc has been sentenced to six months in prison for a hit-and-run accident that killed UVic student Nicholas Mathers. On Nov. 23, the *Martlet* reported that on Nov. 14, Kuc appeared in court to plead guilty to leaving the scene of the accident. On Nov. 15, Judge J. Michael Hubbard sentenced Kuc to six months in prison and issued a two-year driving suspension.

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BC Transit expansion followed by U-Pass cost hike

Changes to service could include late-night runs on weekends

by Chelsea Bowen

The frustration of waiting for your bus on a rainy (or snowy) day only to see it drive by full might be a thing of the past with changes to BC Transit coming over the next five years.

These changes include increasing buses on all major routes so they run at least every 10 minutes during peak hours. Frequency on minor routes will be 20 minutes or less between buses at peak times.

There are plans to include an hourly route to the Victoria airport and late-night transit services on Friday and/or Saturday. BC Transit will also be increasing routes to the western communities, which include Langford, Colwood and View Royal.

In order to meet environmental sustainability policies, there will be more hybrid and bike-rack-equipped buses.

These changes are based on market research done by BC Transit that found that people wanted frequent service, direct and fast routes, affordable rates and high-quality customer information.

BC Transit has decided to meet these challenges by creating the Transit Service Plan. Its goal is to implement a sustainable model for regional transit.

For many UVic students, especially those living off campus, BC Transit is the only way to get around. The number of riders has increased, especially among students going to UVic or Camosun College. In the 2004-05 school year, 90,000 people rode the bus.

The UVic bus pass, the U-Pass, was brought in because the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) wanted to provide an economical and accessible travel option for students and to reduce traffic on Ring Road.

UVSS Chairperson Penny Beames said the U-Pass is tied to the adult monthly pass, which means that if the adult monthly pass increases in price, the UVic and Camosun U-Pass will increase in price as well. The price for an adult pass in Victoria is slightly less than the national average.

MATTHEW GAUK PHOTO

UVic bus-riders bundled up tight against the bitter winter weather try to squeeze into a full bus.

The U-Pass costs $61 each semester and is included in tuition fees. BC Transit states that all monthly pass prices are the current equivalent of 32.5 one-zone trips.

There are a few options for the increases to the adult pass, which will be finalized at a January meeting. One option is to increase the pass by $3 every year until 2010. The second option is to increase the passes by $8.25 in 2007-08 and keep it steady until 2010.

Beames said that unless every student opts into the U-Pass, it will not be financially viable for the UVSS to maintain the U-Pass.

The last referendum on campus showed that students were in favour of keeping the pass.

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Homeless get virtual home on the Internet

by Kim Armstrong

One often overlooked community is speaking out. With no permanent address, no phone number and no postal code, communication has become synonymous with isolation for the majority of homeless people.

Thanks to founder Daniel Cross and the ever-growing team at Homelessnation.org, Canada's homeless are speaking out. Homeless Nation, an online forum for the homeless who want to chat with other people, is the first of its kind.

"I felt by giving the opportunity for people to speak firsthand that it was going a long way towards breaking our traditional media stereotypes about homeless people, which tend to be very negative and negatively impact on their realities," Cross said.

The site has at least one outreach worker in all the cities it currently has a base in. These cities include Montreal, Toronto, Quebec City, Vancouver and Victoria.

"It's allowed people to connect with each other all across the country, share their stories with each other." said Richard Boyce, a filmmaker and Victoria's outreach worker for the site. "A lot of homeless people are very articulate and opinionated people who have a lot of desire to change the world, and this allows them to share information and encourage each other to strive for change in our society."

The site's secondary purpose is fostering communication between the homeless.

"The general public can go online, as well as people who work for the government or other agencies who could potentially help change the homeless situation in Canada," said Boyce.

Smoke is a Vancouver-based Homeless Nation member who joined the site in April. "[It] gives all homeless a voice theyy [sic] can use in order to find shelter or just blog about how its licke [sic] to be homeless," he posted in response to the *Martlet*'s invitation to tell us about the site. Smoke is trying to get a job as a cameraman, audio engineer or sound producer with the organization.

"I suppose it serves three main functions: the exchange of political/economic information, the exchange of personal information, the announcement of personal or political action," posted MetisRebel, a self-described former Toronto tent city resident who has been a member of the site since June. "It gives us a place to discuss/debate different politics and ideas around what could or should be done around the lack of housing situation in this country. It gives space to those who have been or who are unhoused to discuss those experiences ... As a helping resource one can ask for assistance or where to receive assistance around problems."

The website, which was launched early this year, has been well received, growing from Montreal to Quebec City and Toronto within a month, and now has 1,500 members.

"Once everything was up and running, we decided we should get one to happen in Victoria," Boyce said. "I live on Vancouver Island, so I volunteered to do that, and that's what I do on a weekly basis in Victoria. There's also a lot of homeless people in more rural areas of the Island and smaller towns and cities, and I'm working toward giving them the opportunity as well."

Boyce has been in town raising awareness about the site for less than three weeks, and there are already more than 15 local members.

Homeless Nation does not provide its members with computer access, but rather works with existing facilities, such as Our Place, that have computers.

"First of all, anybody can access a library, and beyond that, a lot of the homeless outreach places have Internet connections and quite a lot of homeless people are already using the Internet," Boyce said. "It's not as easy as if you had [a computer] in your home, but if you don't have a home and you really want to find out about things on the Internet, it's amazing how resourceful people are."

Cross, as well as being the founder of the site, has been working with Boyce for 20 years, making films about the homeless. These include *The Street: A Film with the Homeless*, which followed a community of homeless men living around Montreal's metro system for six years, and *SPIT: Squeegee Punks in Traffic*.

Homeless Nation was presented to the Governor General of Canada as part of an event called Art Matters, as well as to the United Nations development symposium held in Vancouver this summer, where it received a favourable reception.

"The response from around the world was just unbelievable," said Boyce. "People wanted to duplicate this in their own countries, and it's just begun."

Slow-moving urchins speed up research

by Nathan Lowther

If you thought the spiky purple mohawk you wore for Halloween was the only thing you had in common with a sea urchin, guess again.

UVic professors Robert Burke and John Taylor were part of an international team of researchers that recently succeeded in decoding the genome of the *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*, or purple sea urchin. The duo discovered that the marine invertebrates share 70 per cent of their genes with humans, which could affect biomedical research.

The study, which Burke said took about two years, was reported on by *Science Magazine* and will be featured in a special issue of the journal *Developmental Biology* on Dec. 1.

The relationship between urchins and humans was a key factor in the decision to investigate the locally found sea creature's genes.

"We have [genome] information on flies and worms, and we have done a bunch of vertebrates. But urchins are much closer to vertebrates than [flies and worms]," said Taylor. "There was this big evolutionary gap until [the sea urchin genome] was added."

Sea urchins have many of the genes linked to human diseases such as Huntington's chorea, muscular dystrophy and atherosclerosis, and their simple, transparent embryos are ideal for studies on embryonic development.

Burke said that there are many reasons why sea urchins are a valuable biomedical model, including cost.

"In the human genome we simply don't know the function of 30 per cent of the genes," said Burke. "The usual function is find the gene in a mouse, knock the gene out and find out what it does. This is usually a two-year project with a rough cost of $250,000. I can do the same experiment, with some limitations, in an urchin, particularly with genes that have to do with early development, in about one week and [at] cost of less than $1,000."

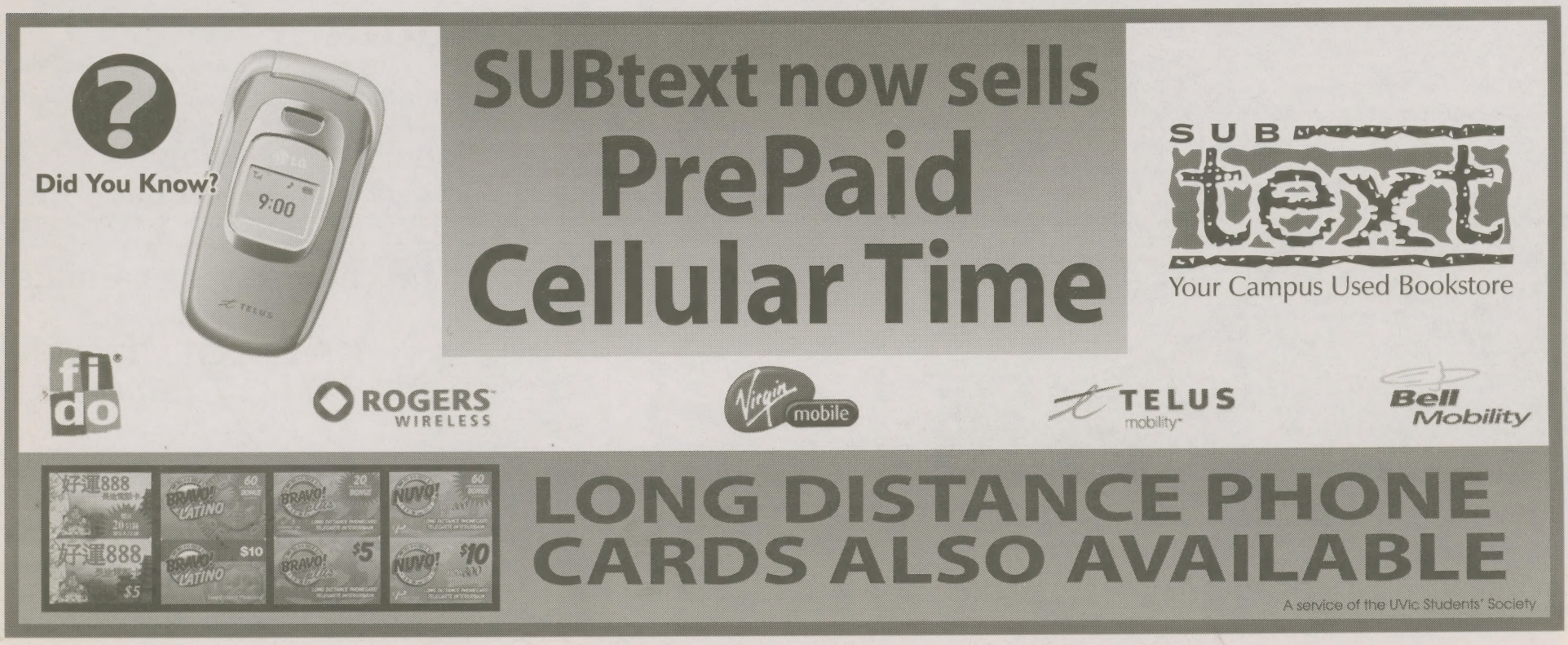
Another factor in choosing to study sea urchins was that they are already widely researched. Anyone who's taken a developmental biology course will have encountered sea urchins because they're easy and practical to study, Burke said.

PROVIDED PHOTO

The curved objects with knobs at the end of the appendages of this purple sea urchin are tube feet, and the straight, tapered objects are its spines.

Surprisingly, sea urchins possess genes related to sight, smell and taste in humans, although their sight genes are found on the feet. Scientists still aren't sure what sea urchins sense, since they don't have any of the other traditional sensory organs. Burke said that they probably don't see images, but respond to light.

"We're still very unclear how they do this," said Burke.



Cooling global warming

UVic's Environmental Law Clinic thinking up ways for province to address issue at local level

by Dock Currie

Draft legislation written by the UVic Environmental Law Clinic may help solve debates over what policy, if any, the government should adopt to address climate change and the environment.

The legislation, commissioned by the Conservation Voters of B.C., was released last week and is meant to give the provincial government a way of addressing global warming on a local level.

"The provinces have gotten a total free ride," said Matt Price, coordinator for the Conservation Voters of B.C. "I think it's partially our fault as an activist community, because when you actually look at who has jurisdiction over most of the things that affect greenhouse gasses, it's not the federal government—it's the provinces."

The draft legislation is partially based on California's legislation that deals specifically with global warming. The local approach was emphasized because the responsibility for things such as transportation, energy production and land planning falls squarely on the shoulders of states and, in this case, provinces, said Price.

A Nov. 16 poll by Ipsos-Reid found that 72 per cent of British Columbians believe that "the world will end" unless drastic action is taken to combat global warming and affect climate change in a positive manner. Despite this, Price believes that it may be a long time before politicians take hold of the problem in any pragmatic way, as they are "fundamentally out of step with the voters."

"There is no doubt that governments need to move on this issue, and it's going to be the defining issue of our entire generation—at some point they'll have to; it's inevitable," said Price.

UVic's Simon Cott helped to write the draft legislation and believes that the way they've structured it makes it more politically viable for politicians to be environmentally conscious and does so in a way that doesn't detract from the power or mandate that their constituents have given them.

While it is difficult under Canadian law to force the government to do anything, the draft legislation is designed to create roadblocks to governments' not achieving the emissions targets. It does this with a provision that requires governments to explain their reasons for ignoring expert advice on climate change.

This provision, along with one that forces politicians to acknowledge when a proposed motion would supercede an existing one, makes it difficult to disregard commitments without paying a political cost.

The draft legislation has been with the Minister of Environment's office for more than a week now but has not yet prompted a substantive response.

Kate Thompson of the minister's office has acknowledged that it has been received and been sent to the climate change branch of the ministry, headed by Lee Thiessen, for review. But Price doesn't expect the province to engage with the draft legislation in earnest just yet.

"I don't expect that they'll officially respond," said Price, "but I think that what we're doing is adding to the intellectual debate around what it's going to look like when B.C. finally does get around to setting targets."

THIS WEEK IN MARTLET HISTORY

1965
These days you wouldn't get much of a chance to mention UVic and Notre Dame University in the same sentence if you're talking about sports. But this week in 1965, the UVic Vikings hockey team routed the fighting Irish 8-3 in the last game of the semester. UVic captain Brian "Strap" Whitten had two goals, an assist and a fight, giving him the all-important Gordie Howe hat trick.

1973
The City of Victoria pledged this week in 1973 to investigate allegations that the city clerk was placing voters on the no-vote list primarily due to their "Oriental-sounding names." Victoria residents—even those who were not of foreign heritage—were enraged that they had been taken off the eligible voter lists based on such arbitrary evidence.

1979
The front page of the *Martlet* featured an article titled, "Iranian students leave U.S. for UVic?

After several anti-Iranian demonstrations across campuses in the U.S., including a 2,000-person protest at Seattle's University of Washington, UVic received "quite a few" more requests than usual from Iranian students looking to transfer.

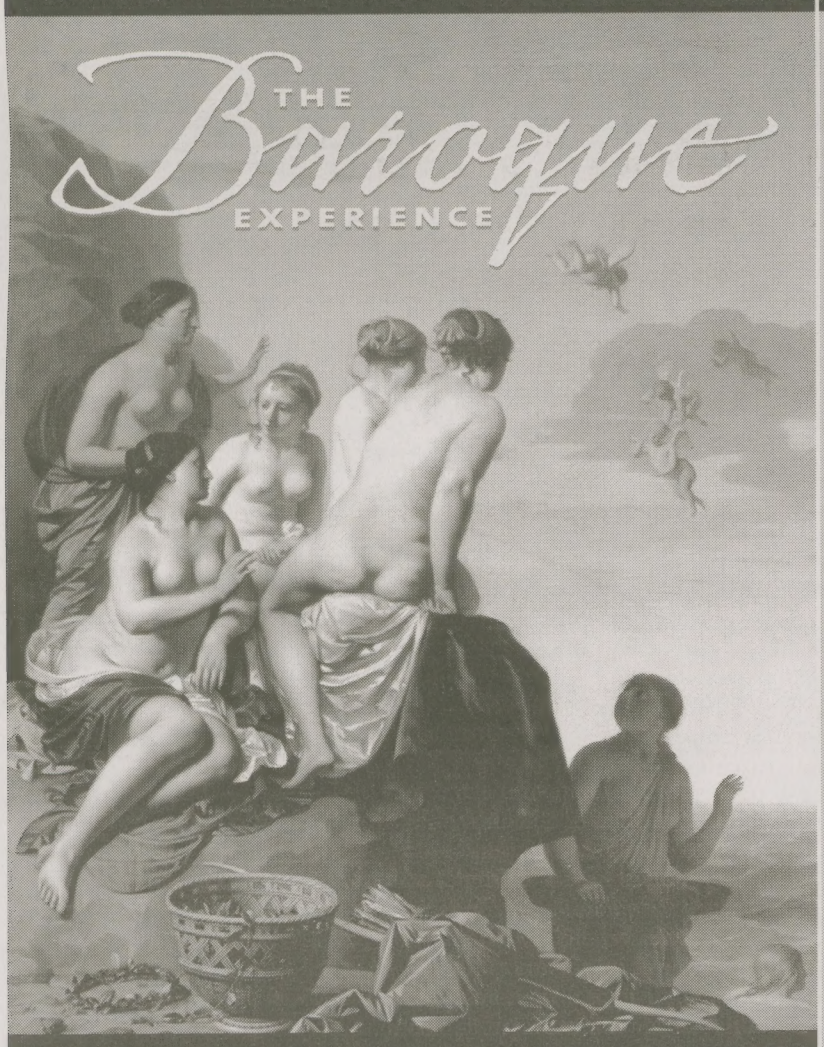
1983
Spring semester student loans were in jeopardy in 1983 when the provincial government miscalculated the needs of students for the second year in a row. The deficit in '83 exceeded two million dollars. Then UVic Students' Society President Brian Stevenson attributed the shortfall to the government setting what they'd like to spend, as opposed to what they should.

1988
A university investigation found that a rowing initiation ceremony that had taken place earlier in the year had involved hazing, prompting a senior member of the university administration to comment that hazing will not be tolerated. The report cited past instances of new rowers having to scrub the dock at Elk Lake with a toothbrush and have big Ls sprayed on their faces for "loser." That year, many had their hair cut, dyed or shaved. Alcohol was said to be involved.

1999
A buck-eyed young David Turpin is selected to replace president David Strong this week in 1999. Though his credentials were admirable, having been named a member of the Royal Society of Canada, critics wondered if an administrator from Queen's University in the cost-cutting culture of Ontario would be right for UVic. He's been here ever since, so you be the judge.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE OF THE ART GALLERY OF GREATER VICTORIA PRESENTS

THE Baroque EXPERIENCE



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Thursday, January 18 at 7:30pm
BAROQUE LECTURE SERIES: 1*
Baroque Music
with Robert Holliston, Victoria Conservatory of Music

Saturday, January 20 at 2:00pm
PECULIAR CULTURE ARTIST'S TALK
with Luanne Martineau
Free with admission.

Sunday, January 21, 2:00 - 4:00pm
FAMILY SUNDAY
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Thursday, January 25 at 7:30pm
BAROQUE LECTURE SERIES: 2*
Rembrandt & the Dutch Baroque
with Dr. Betsy Tumasonis

Thursday, February 1 at 7:30pm
BAROQUE LECTURE SERIES: 3*
DRAMA & REALITY IN BAROQUE ART
with Erika Dolphin
National Gallery of Canada

Thursday, February 8 at 7:30pm
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The Continuum Consort
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*LECTURE SERIES
Lectures take place at the Truth Centre
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Includes Gallery admission on day of event.

Image: Caesar van Everdingen | The Rape of Europa (detail) c.1650 | National Gallery of Canada, Gift of Federal Construction Inc. Montreal

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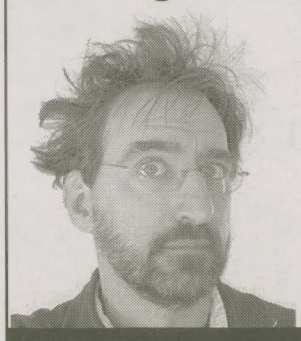

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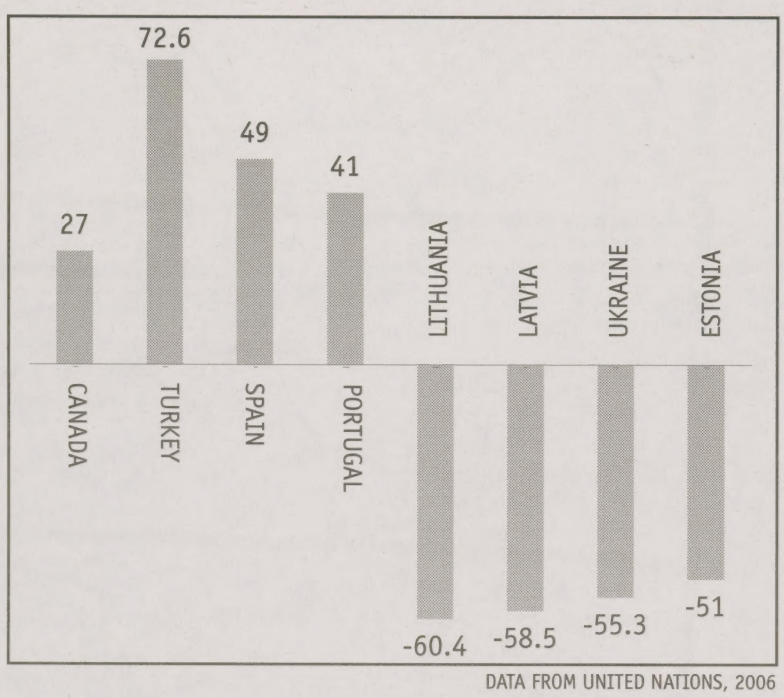
Climate change out of Africa

by Norman Ed Baskerville

Change in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 to 2004, by per cent



DATA FROM UNITED NATIONS, 2006

Naomi Devine recently returned from the UN Climate Change Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, where she was one of 15 Canadian Youth Climate Coalition delegates.

Holding this year's conference in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the current effects of climate change are already being felt, lent a sense of urgency to what needs to be done, said the UVic student.

"Africa is going to have to adapt to climate changes they are already seeing even though they are not among the major contributors to the problem."

Devine, a director on the boards of the BC Sustainable Energy Association and the UVic Sustainability Project, said the conference had too much bureaucracy and not enough action.

"Everything got put off till a later date," said Devine. "The adaptation fund, money for projects in developing countries to help them respond to climate change, had its terms and principles agreed upon, but no governance was agreed upon yet."

After watching Canada's actions leading up to and at this conference, Devine said it has become clear that the Youth Climate Coalition, environmentalists and average citizens need to push the government to take climate change seriously.

"I think it's irresponsible for the Conservatives to waste time blaming the former government," she said. "The effects of climate change are moving forward regardless of the failings of the Liberals."

At the conference, Canada was touting the Clean Air Act, which it hasn't passed. The Act's target of a 65 percent emission reduction by 2050 is based on 2003 emission levels. This is significant because Kyoto adhering nations use 1990 levels. Between 1990 and 2003, Canada's greenhouse gas emissions rose 27 per cent.

The Kyoto Protocol currently requires countries to reduce their emissions levels by about six per cent below 1990 levels by 2008.

Canada is the only member of the Kyoto Protocol that will not meet binding targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions between 2008 and 2012 as required under the international agreement for industrialized countries. Canadian Environment Minister Rona Ambrose took a lot of heat at the conference from other Kyoto countries.

Currently, Canada's emissions are 35 per cent above the Kyoto target.

At present, the only consequence for countries that do not meet their targets is an increase in expected targets in 2012, when the second phase of Kyoto begins.

That could change soon. France announced it would introduce a carbon tax on products from countries that don't take on commitments beyond 2012. The EU is also studying the idea.

Devine doesn't rule out placing trade sanctions on irresponsible countries.

"Why should countries like Canada, who don't live up to their Kyoto targets, continue to benefit from trade as equally as nations who are taking the economic hit of dealing with their greenhouse gas emissions?"

"Rona [Ambrose] told us at a meeting that short-term emission targets were going to be announced in January, but it's all very vague," said Devine. "I asked her if Canada was going to commit to the 'two degrees Celsius' emission reduction target in the post-2012 phase, and I got a round-about 'no.'"

The recent Stern Report made an impact at the conference. Nicolas Stern, former chief economist with the World Bank, along with 20 researchers and academics, compiled the 700-page report on the economic cost of neglecting the devastating effects of climate change.

"Stern was one of the most popular and sought-after people at the conference," said Devine. "His report says the economy is going to suffer, and at the end of the day none of the moral arguments will persuade our society to act like an economic argument."

The report warns that not taking action or waiting until it's too late to act on climate change could cost $7 trillion US by 2100—more than the First and Second World Wars combined—and could lead to a worldwide economic depression.

But, according to the report, measures to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at levels that will prevent dangerous global warming will cost just one per cent of the global GDP.

"The fact of the matter is, it's cheaper to start dealing with climate change sooner rather than later," said Devine, adding that solutions are readily available and that many industrial countries are investing in renewable energy technologies.

"Some Scandinavian countries have sewer pipe heat recovery systems and are using the energy to heat homes. We could be doing the same thing here—recover bio-fuel from our sewage and fuel a fleet of buses for a year. There's lots of innovative ways to harness energy that [don't] add to greenhouse fuel emissions," said Devine.

"My worry is that we're going to talk ourselves to death. We have the solutions, let's get to it."

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Editorial

Nation notion a nuisance

If you looked up the definition of "nation" in the dictionary, you'd find a description about a group of people joined by a common ethnicity, language and history.

It is in no uncertain terms, then, that the people of Quebec are a nation—it's not debatable—and this past Tuesday, the country's political leaders passed a motion that recognizes that the Québécois constitute "a nation within a united Canada."

Using Quebecers' desire to be distinguished from the rest of Canada as political tool isn't new to federal politicians. The 1987 Meech Lake Accord and 1992's Charlottetown Accord, both configured by Brian Mulroney's Conservatives, contained clauses that recognized Quebec as a "distinct society" within Canada. And while both initially had large support across political parties and across the country, each failed. (Manitoba and Newfoundland failed to ratify Meech Lake, and Charlottetown was killed in a national referendum.)

So many were taken aback when Harper said he would be asking members of the House to vote on a new nation motion, but they shouldn't have been. The Liberals (who were debating the issue amongst themselves) and the Bloc (who were just about to introduce a motion calling Quebec a nation) forced Harper into a pretty tight corner. Harper's announcement successfully stopped the Bloc's motion, which didn't acknowledge Quebec as a part of Canada, and assured the people of Quebec that the Conservatives respect them. And while Harper may have strengthened Michael Ignatieff's campaign for the Liberal leadership (Ignatieff had announced Quebec should be considered a nation), it was nonetheless a gorgeous political strike.

For some, it was a perfect example of politicians playing politics; for others, it was a gross example of government at its lowest. Liberal leadership contender Gerard Kennedy refused to back the motion and said it "treats the identity of the country as a political trinket." Touché!

On the day of Harper's announcement, *National Post* columnist Andrew Coyne was all doom and gloom when interviewed about the topic on CBC's *The National*. Coyne wrote on his blog, "Oh well. It was a nice country while it lasted. Our ancestors might be a bit put out to think that the country they worked so hard to build should give up this easily, but they're dead now so what can they do?" Coyne is worried about the same thing as many Canadians: could this motion give separatists the ground they need to secede from Canada? Probably not.

While it may not lead Quebec to separate, the motion does piss off a lot of people who don't live in La Belle Province. The West Coast already feels ignored, the Maritime provinces are ignored and no one pretends to pay any attention to what Manitobans want. A motion like this furthers the sense of regionalism and isolation that parts of Canada are prone to. There isn't a cohesive version of this country, and little more than the federal government and the national flag ties us together.

Many parts of the country could be considered nations—some First Nations groups are also now calling for recognition—or at the very least, distinct societies. Vancouver Island is certainly a distinct society, with a culture and history unique to a specific geographic area. Perhaps Islanders should push for recognition as a nation within Canada while we're at it. The only difference the Island has from Quebec is a much smaller and therefore ineffective voting population.

That's what's so infuriating about saying the Québécois form a nation—it's just another example of paying attention to the whining Quebecers because they hold such political power when election time rolls around.

Angry? Pleased? Confused? Aroused? Tell us: letters@martlet.ca

Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community, with priority given to undergraduate students. Letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by e-mail and include your name and student number for verification. Letters must be under 200 words. Deadline for letters is noon on the Friday before publication date. Letters will be prioritized by order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 3 p.m. every Friday in the *Martlet* office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

Don't go into debt this Xmas

by Stefanie Borowski

Christmas carols are already blaring in shopping malls. Organized people have finished, or at least begun, their holiday shopping, often buying their friends, relatives and co-workers stuff they don't need. Many people will receive gifts they don't even want.

Christmas brings out consumers. It's all about more stuff—bigger, better and more selection; or smaller, sleeker and funkier colours. Many give and receive items they cannot afford and simply do not need, while going several thousands of dollars in debt.

The Vanier Institute of the Family website states that "the average debt held by Canadian households has now risen for 15 consecutive years.... Currently, the average debt per household stands at about $70,920." According to the Ontario Association of Credit Counselling Services website, in "over one decade, the family income of clients has decreased by 15 per cent, while the average debt increased by almost 60 per cent."

Still, the holiday season is for spending. Statistics Canada recorded that Canadian consumers spent an estimated $34.5 billion in December 2004, up almost seven per cent from the previous holiday season.

This behaviour shouldn't be acceptable. It isn't rational to buy something you can't afford. Yet it is rare to find someone over the age of 20 who is debt free, especially among students.

According to Statistics Canada, students with loans are finishing their undergrad degrees with $20,000 of debt on average. Once a student gets used to the idea of being thousands of dollars in debt, it's an easy transition to slip a few hundred further here and there for tangible items such as the latest iPod or PlayStation.

Buying things that we don't need (such as cellphones) and paying off the bills that come with them is how most of our debt is created. We purchase these things because advertising subconsciously convinces us we are inadequate and incomplete without them.

We spend money that we don't have to feel immediate gratification that is short term, and often only lasts a few days. Perhaps this Christmas we should think about what we, and our families and friends, really need.

ON THE SPOT

by Ahmed Mumeni
This week's question:
What is the worst gift you've received during the holiday season?

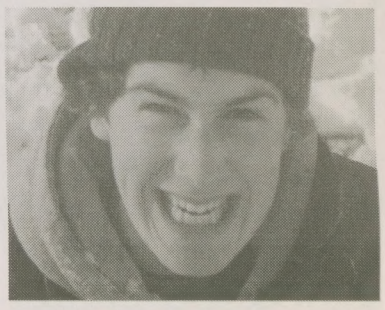
Allie Orzeck
Bag of pencils.

Jon Davis
Stuffed animal I already owned.

Ralph Aida
Big white cardigan—old man style.

Meghan Robertson
I received ugly ceramic gnomes from my parents one year.

Megan Aberley
I like all my presents.



Kesh Smith
My big brother gave me garbage once.

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Cover image by Wes Scott, Willie Li and Ahmed Mumeni

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Still waiting for recycled paper

UVic continues to use virgin fibre despite many sustainable alternatives

by Seth Wright

It's frustrating that our university, after years of prodding and protesting, continues to use paper with little recycled content from enormous transnational corporations that are actively clear-cutting our forests.

The *Martlet* is printed on 90 per cent virgin fibre because the Island's only newspaper printer, Black Press, doesn't offer more than a dismal 10 per cent recycled content. This is repugnant, and what's worse is that they get away with such irresponsible behaviour.

We live in one of the most biologically rich biomes in the world, with majestic intact forests, and yet we allow corporations to squander our resources. The confidence we have in the wealth of our forests has led us to perpetuate incredibly wasteful and destructive forestry practices.

I needn't stress the value of intact forests mitigating Canada's substantial contribution to climate change, or the important role of forests in maintaining endangered species or our need for a long-term sustainable timber harvest. Creating paper out of trees is both a misappropriation of trees and a failure of human ingenuity to source paper from a truly renewable resource.

It's enough to provoke the question: do we really need to print so much? The advent of computers promised the end of paper, but we are now using more paper than ever before.

Fortunately, 100 per cent of post-consumer recycled paper—paper made of already-used paper—is only marginally more expensive than non-recycled or partially recycled paper, and it is of comparable quality. Yet the use of virgin fibre continues.

UVic is one of Vancouver Island's largest paper consumers and has significant buying power in the region. If the university were to commit to buying 100 per cent recycled paper, the price differential would drop and the positive repercussions of that in the larger community would be significant.

While the university has taken many praiseworthy steps to move toward sustainability, they have stopped short of switching to 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper.

The UVic Sustainability Project (UVSP) has been quite successful in working with the administration to program campus printers to print double-sided. The McPherson Library is expected to follow suit in January.

The UVSP discovered in a survey that a significant majority of professors are encouraging students to hand in assignments and essays printed on both sides of the paper.

But in terms of further reducing paper consumption, it is largely up to individuals to rethink how they can reduce paper use.

Talking to your professors about reducing the amount of paper they use is also an important initiative that may have a significant effect at UVic.

But we still need recycled paper on campus.

Camosun College committed to using 100 per cent post-consumer chlorine-free recycled paper in September. The manager of their print shop told me that they have experienced few problems with the swap.

If Camosun can do it, certainly UVic can too. But we've yet to see any indication of a switch.

Perhaps if we had to cut down the trees on our own campus for paper, we might realize the folly of our actions and make the change.

You aren't entitled to your opinion

by Dock Currie

New rule: you don't have to agree with people, but if you disagree with something and can't keep your mouth shut, then you must endeavour to be consistent and articulate.

I don't normally feel the need to bite Bill Maher's style with the new rule, but this time it's downright necessary, as it seems like people believe that "I'm entitled to my opinion" is a statement worth making. The fact of the matter is, for several reasons, it's not.

When people say, "I'm entitled to my opinion," they usually confuse whether they have a legal right to hold an opinion with whether their opinion is justifiable. Obviously the former is not in question, as we live in a liberal democracy where everyone is allowed to hold whatever beliefs they see fit.

The problem arises when people mistake their legal right to hold a view for their opinion having intrinsic merit—and I'm sorry to say that no view holds intrinsic merit. Opinionated positions only warrant merit through rational argument, or at bare minimum, through convincing rhetoric.

So what, then, is really being asserted when someone says, "I'm entitled to my opinion"? Well, the most accurate analysis of what occurs when people make that remark—at least the most accurate that I've seen—comes from Professor Jamie Whyte of Cambridge University in his 2003 book, *Bad Thoughts: A Guide to Clear Thinking*.

Whyte writes that when people claim a right or entitlement, they are usually claiming that everyone else has an obligation to fulfill some duty toward them. In this case, however, it isn't clear what obligations entitlement to an opinion would place on everyone else.

They couldn't be asserting that their right to an opinion obliges everyone else to agree with them, because then my right to an opinion would reciprocally oblige them to agree with me.

And it's unlikely that they're asserting that everyone is obliged to listen to their opinion, because there are too many opinions to be required to listen to and understand each one, regardless of their quality.

So, most reasonably, we can say that when people claim that they are entitled to their opinion, they really mean that everyone else is obliged to let them keep that opinion.

But neither I not anyone else is obliged to let anyone keep their opinions. It is, in fact, incumbent upon us all to work diligently at changing people's opinions on any number of issues.

We live in a pluralistic society that holds as a value the paradoxical position that two irreconcilable views can both be legitimate as long as they are supported by a good, strong argument.

And so, while we might have to accept that discourse and dialogue might reveal two well-argued views that remain irreconcilable, my suspicion is that, in the great majority of cases, discourse and dialogue would either reveal one position to be stronger than another or would result in a synthesis of two positions.

That said, it scares me to no end that this statement still pops up every now and again. Someone makes an outrageous and unjustifiable statement, whether it is bigoted, sexist, homophobic or generally an irrational statement in reference to any number of topics, and then, instead of attempting to defend or elaborate on their position, they duck down behind "I'm entitled to my opinion."

It's intellectual terrorism.

The people who make use of the statement really have nothing to lose. Or rather, the people who make use of the statement have nothing to lose but the statement itself. And so the more people who understand how vacuous and irrelevant it is, the better off we'll all be.

Therapist talks sex with Muslim women

Heba Kotb is no Dr. Ruth, but she's very progressive on her own terms

by Meredith Chapple
UVic Anti-Violence Project

Sex is understood differently in the world's diverse cultures.

Last month, *The Wall Street Journal* published an article about an unconventional lecture presented by sex therapist Heba Kotb to over 300 Muslim women at a university in Yemen.

Kotb, who is Muslim, gained the respect of the audience by incorporating excerpts from the Quran with sexual science. Her aim was to encourage her conservative audience to open up and be frank about sex.

The population of Yemen is largely made up of Sunni and Shia Muslims. Kotb's seminar was cautiously received because the topic of sex is private and contained. She spoke to an audience of many young women who have been taught that it is inappropriate to talk about sex. Consequently, many grew up being very shy and insecure about what is normal sexual behavior.

One couple that sought counselling from Kotb, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, had been married eight years and still had not had full intercourse because of the wife's insecurities and fears, which made them both frustrated and unhappy.

Kotb, whose practice is based in Cairo, is challenging this hushed attitude and advocates for open sexual information to be provided to those who seek it. She correlates crumbling marriages with the lack in sexual expression. Kotb feels sex is vital to a successful marriage and should be performed for more than procreation.

Kotb is adamant about respecting her culture, and she gains respect by supporting her sexual beliefs with excerpts from the Quran—encouraging women to be forward by quoting the Prophet Muhammad's wife Al Sayeda Aisha, who used to call her husband to bed. Kotb insisted that discussing sex with their husbands is not shameful and can be very rewarding.

This can be hard to relate to from our place in Western culture. In Canada, sexual information is easily accessible and open for discussion. Our generation has seen sexuality commodified and incorporated into the mainstream.

Sexual display—whether it's nudity in movies, homosexual representation on television or the sale of a burger using a bikini-clad Paris Hilton—is unavoidable. And UVic students have easy access to sex information through on-campus organizations like the Anti-Violence Project or the university's Health Centre.

As our society evolves to embrace diversity with sexual preference, students have more freedom to experiment in sexual preferences, and this exploration is considered normal. Inquiries about sexual behaviour are played out (although sometimes in an over-the-top misrepresentation) in the media.

This in-your-face sexual attitude is not something Kotb wishes to see infiltrating Muslim culture. She is adamant that her culture will not be westernized.

Kotb turned down an offer from a recognized Arab channel because the promoter wanted her to advertise lingerie. She is also firm in her belief that intimate couples should be heterosexual and married. Kotb is no Dr. Ruth, but she is progressive on her own terms.

A guys' guide to gift giving

by Steve Carey

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, there's a lot of gift giving in December, and therefore a lot of chances to screw up. So how do us guys know what makes a good gift?

Good gifts understand the recipient—they're the type of things that can be enjoyed and appreciated on an emotional, not just material, level. Bad gifts can be bought at a drugstore.

With that in mind, here's a list of good and bad gifts for people in your life. Happy holidays and best wishes for a hookup on New Year's.

Mother

Bad Gift: *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* DVD. Ask yourself, does she really want to watch that movie about a lacklustre youth and his problems with an overweight mother and disabled brother, or does it strike too close to home?

Good Gift: It's the little things that make the difference over the holidays. Sort through some loose photographs and make a scrapbook, or transfer those old home movies from Christmas '95 from the mini HI-8 tape to DVD. It's the least you can do for someone who used to wake you up by tickling your feet in the morning.

Father

Bad Gift: Spa treatment or gift certificate. Fathers don't have the patience to flounder around and figure out where to use those tickets you gave them, and they won't appreciate a restaurant gift certificate—your mom's cooking is good enough.

Good Gift: A really good electric razor and nose-hair trimmer. Dads don't have time for straight razors and brush sets, but do have time every morning to fire up a Remington and shave those pesky bits. (The nose-hair trimmer is really a gift for your mom; she hates that stuff.)

Brother

Bad Gift: Just like that Batman action figure you gave your brother when you were kids, getting him something you want is a bad idea. You'll always be at odds about where it is and fight over sharing it long into the future.... Stupid Batman figure.

Good Gift: A nice shaving set, with brush, mug and shaving soap. Unlike dads, brothers do have time for this stuff. They're interested in tradition and want to figure out how they can be more like their grandparents. A chrome razor holder and horsehair shaving brush is a perfect "you're a man, and I respect that" gift.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Buying a loved one a gift that you really want is not a good way to show that you care.

Sister

Bad Gift: Wine or chocolate. Although consumables like these will be enjoyed, they're thoughtless. Any idiot can buy a bottle of wine or a box of mint-melties, but this is your sister, man.

Good Gift: Gift certificate to her favourite shop for, say, $50 to $100. Any more than that and she'll look at you sideways; any less and you'll be cheap. The shop gift involves a bit of sister stalking; ask her friends where she goes, or just ask her—she'll understand.

Girlfriend

Bad Gift: Flowers and lunch at work. Whether this will work or not really depends on the stage in the relationship you're at. If you've been seeing each other for under a month, don't do this. It will be forever classed under the "you won't believe what this psycho guy who keeps calling me did" category. Otherwise, you're probably in the clear.

Good Gift: Anything you put thought into. Get her something that represents her, something that she brings up all the time, or something that she's referred to a lot. If that fails, just take her to a shop with handbags and let her walk around until she finds something. Then be all like, "We gotta go," and pick it up when she's not around.

Disclaimer: If your girlfriend tells you you're obsessed with material things and that she hates meat, then dreadlock shampoo or a fair-trade craft is a far better gift than a handbag.

Friend

Bad Gift: If they give you something, and you give them nothing, you're a tool. Fix that by getting them something that represents your relationship with them; even a novelty t-shirt or a photo of the two of you doing something in a frame is better than nothing.

Good Gift: Something thoughtful—a subscription to *Vice Magazine* if they're an avid reader, or a good book or DVD set that they would really enjoy. If it's a budget thing, burn them a CD or make them a mix-tape. Music is from the heart, really.

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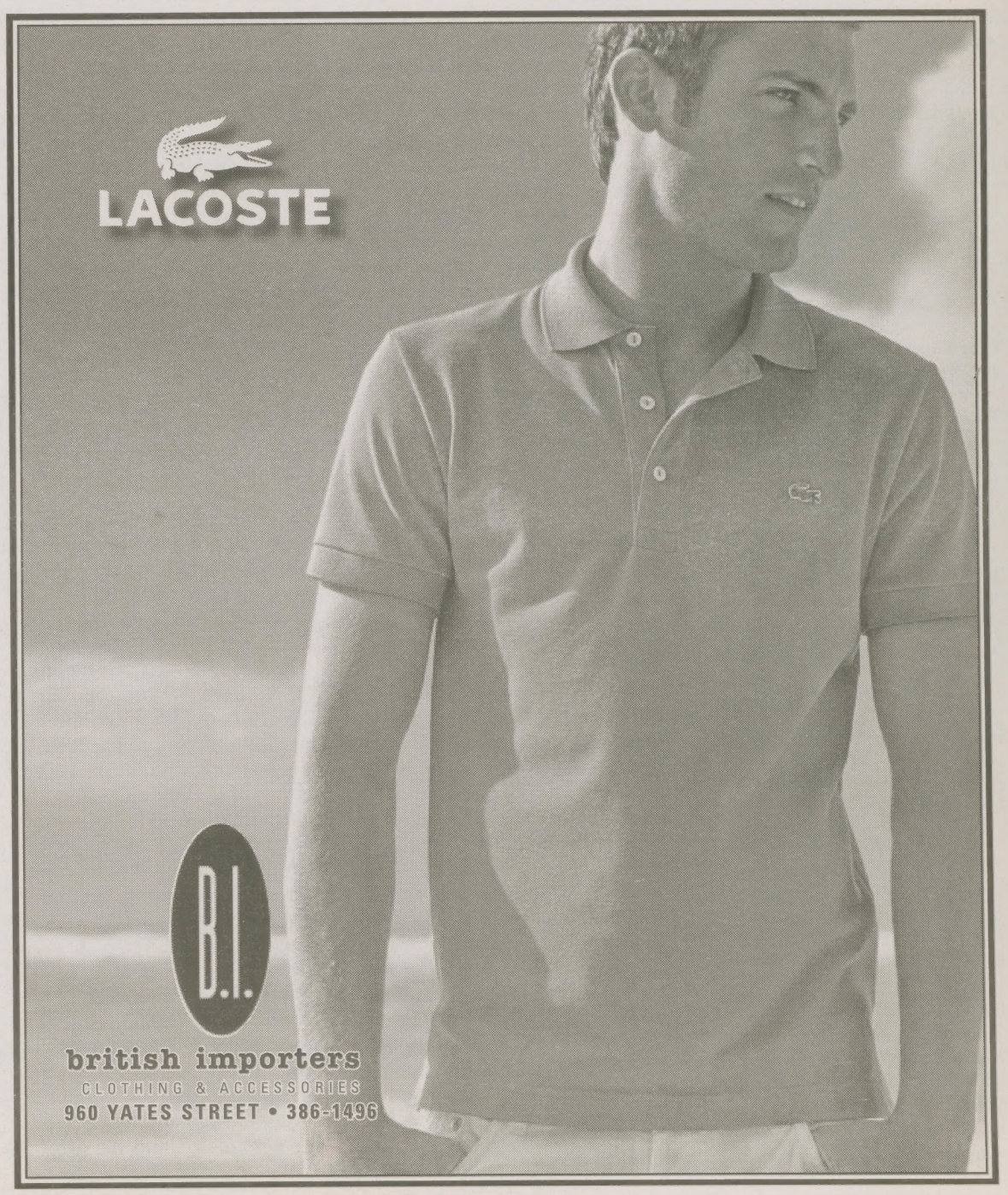
University of Waterloo



Getting wasted, holiday-style

These drinks are guaranteed to help you tolerate your intolerable family

by Hilary Agro

Come on, I know those pre-made shots are tempting around the holidays, but put them down. You're more creative than that.

The holidays are a time for celebration, and though of course you're not going to be sober, you can at least be classy about it. Any respectable drinker knows that shotgunning Kokanee or slamming vodka may be acceptable for a normal night out, but it just doesn't cut it for the holidays.

So it's time for a festive lesson of enjoying alcohol rather than pouring it down your throat. Here are some great beverages for those cosy winter nights lounging around the house. If you're a non-drinker, have no worries—these are all still fantastic without the booze.

We'll start with eggnog: if there's one staple holiday drink, this is it.

The Conneggnoisseur
(serves 20)
6 eggs
½ cup sugar
½ cup bourbon
½ cup cognac
¼ tsp salt
1 L whipped cream
nutmeg

Separate the eggs. In an electric mixer, beat the egg yolks and sugar until thick. Slowly add the bourbon and cognac while beating at slow speed. Chill several hours. Add the salt to the egg whites and beat until the whites form bendy peaks. Mix the whipped cream into the yolk mixture, then add the beaten egg whites. Chill one hour. When ready to serve, sprinkle the top with freshly grated nutmeg. This stuff is strong, so either cut the liquor in half or don't give any to your 17-year-old cousin.

The Wassail
(serves ... a lot)

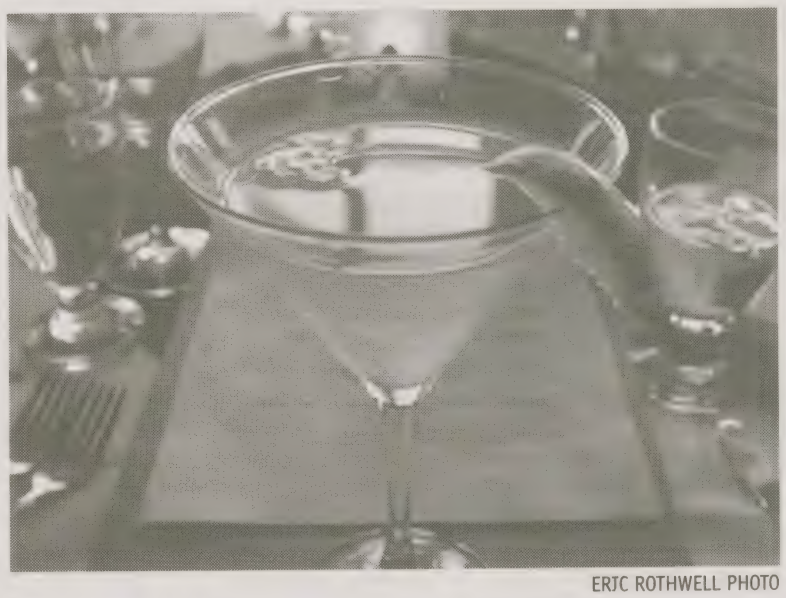
The Wassail is probably my favourite drink of all time (after the Glögg, but you'll have to look that one up on your own because it's nearly impossible to make). Wassail originates from the Norse *ves heill*, meaning "be in good health," and is a very old Scandinavian Christmas tradition. It's also kind of complicated to make, but if you try only one new drink during the holidays, make it a Wassail.

2 L apple juice or cider
1 orange
1 lemon
½ lime
1½ tsp cloves
1½ tsp allspice
1 stick cinnamon
500 mL water
½ cup sugar
1 cup rum

Heat the water to boiling. Cut the lemons, oranges and lime in half and squeeze the juice into a separate bowl to save. Throw the skins and pulp into the boiling water. Add cinnamon and spices and simmer for one hour. Remove the cinnamon stick and a few cloves and allspice and save to one side. Using a slotted spoon or strainer, remove all the citrus peels and pulp and the remaining spices. Return the saved cinnamon and spices to the water. Add the juice or cider (if you're feeling frisky, use Strongbow) and return to heat. When boiling, remove from heat and add the citrus juice, rum and sugar. Simmer very lightly for another 10 minutes and serve.

Christmas at the Zoo
(serves one)
3 oz. cranberry juice
2 oz. orange juice
1/8 oz. lime cordial
soda water
frozen cranberries
1½ oz vodka

In a glass filled with ice, combine cranberry juice, orange juice, lime cordial and vodka. Top with soda water and sprinkle with frozen cranberries.



ERIC ROTHWELL PHOTO

Christmas at the Zoo is an easy-to-make holiday treat.

There are lots of other easy drinks to try, if you're feeling very lazy.

The Snow Patrol
One half oz. each hot eggnog and peppermint schnapps.

The Polar Bear
One half oz. each chocolate liqueur and peppermint schnapps.

The Wintersleep
One third oz. each peach schnapps, banana liqueur and Southern Comfort.

The You're So Damn Hot
Heated mulled cider, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg.

The Mexican Christmas
One half oz. each tequila and Kahlúa.

The Nutcracker
One third oz. each vodka, whiskey and cranberry juice.

The Yes Virginia, We Are Getting Drunk Tonight
One bottle Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum.

Use your imagination. But only for the first few drinks. Then your imagination might become impaired, and the Mexican Christmas could seem like a good idea.

Throwing a festive party on the cheap

by Amy Green

It is possible to throw a fun and cheap holiday party that's not reminiscent of the neighbourhood shindig your mom would wear her Rudolph sweater to. All it takes is a little creativity, some good friends and a lot of cheer (think plenty of spiked cranberry punch).

Start Planning Early

It's best to start thinking about the major details of your party in early December, before the shopping countdown begins.

First of all, decide on a date and create your guest list. It's fairly simple: don't invite more people than your place can accommodate. Feel free to invite that friend whose life mission is to share his (off-key) singing with the world. Who better to start some caroling? Other guests are bound to start singing along when they realize they can sing better than at least one person at the party.

Put Up Some Festive Decorations

Nothing says "deck the halls" quite like boughs of holly, but if you don't know where to get some of those, just string up some cheap lights to create a cosy atmosphere.

Put up a small Christmas tree and make tree trimming a party activity. Decorations don't have to be expensive. Get guests to help string together popcorn (yes, people actually do that) or get everyone to bring his or her own ornament and have a competition to see who can bring the tackiest. String one miniature stocking on the tree for each guest, and stuff with a mini bottle of Kahlúa to hand out as party favours (and to get the party started).

Don't forget about the possibilities of mistletoe. String strategically around your place, enforce the mistletoe rules, and revel in the embarrassment (or delight) of your friends.

Create a Festive Mix

No holiday party is complete without some traditional festive tunes. But beware: if you let Mariah serenade your guests all night with her rendition of "All I Want For Christmas is You," someone may end up throwing baby Jesus at your expensive stereo equipment. I'd recommend something such as Coldplay's "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," or Jack Johnson's "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Food

Remember: the student host's best friend is the potluck. Just be sure to clarify who should bring what—parties can generally do without five varieties of spinach dip. Or get each person to bring a dish from his or her family's traditional recipes. You'll also want to whip up a few tasty Christmas treats of your own. Gingerbread men (or should I say gingerbread people) are about as traditional as you can get, and guests can decorate their own. Set out bowls of icing and candy and let everyone embrace their inner child.

Party Games

Gift exchanges can be a fun addition to your party. If everyone knows each other, throw names in a hat and pick "Secret Santas" a couple weeks in advance. Or get everyone to bring a wrapped present (spending limit of $10 to $15) and engage in a round of "The Holiday Gift Grab." Draw numbers to see who goes first. Number One chooses the gift of his or her choice, and then Number Two can either steal Number One's gift or pick a new one from the pile. The game continues until everyone has a present in his or her greedy little hands.

Sample Christmas Mix

1. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" by Jack Johnson
2. "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" by Coldplay
3. "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" by Death Cab for Cutie
4. "Maybe This Christmas" by Ron Sexsmith
5. "Winter Wonderland" by Phantom Planet
6. "Christmas Song" by Dave Matthews Band
7. "Song For a Winter's Night" by Sarah McLachlan
8. "Christmas Time" by The Darkness
9. "Happy Christmas (War Is Over)" by Sense Field
10. "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" by Pedro the Lion
11. "Blue Christmas" by Bright Eyes
12. "Donde Esta Santa Claus?" by Guster
13. "Christmastime" by Barenaked Ladies

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Still an important issue for students toda
front of Parliament Hill in February of 20

What do we want?

And when do we want it?

The status of student activism at UVic

by Alex Gillet

It's 7:55 a.m. on a rainy Thursday morning. I'm making a last-ditch effort to make an 8:30 class when a voice from my radio shouts, "I say 'Harper.' You say 'war criminal.'" The CBC announcer introduces the voice as fourth-year UVic psychology student Andrew Barry, who's leading a group of protesters in downtown Victoria on Oct. 28.

Barry is one of four friends who, just this year, organized the Students Against War Club at the university. Despite a few initial organizational problems, Barry says he's seen a lot of interest in his club. Two hundred students signed up during Club Days and 20 regularly attend meetings.

"A lot of young people are pissed off and want to do something about [war]," he says. But war is by no means the only thing students are pissed off about these days. Among the students I spoke to, sustainability/environmental issues, rising tuition fees and poverty also rank high on their lists of concerns. Yet while troubled by these things, very few students said that they advocate for/against issues that are important to them.

"I have a hard time believing that these [activist] groups actually accomplish much," says Wendy Hurdle, a fifth-year biology student. And indeed, many debate whether student activism has hit a slump. Some say UVic is no longer the centre of activism we once were, while others believe activism it still thriving on campus, although perhaps in different forms.

THE TUITION FEE FACTOR

"UVic's always been a big activist campus," says Shamus Reid, former UVic student and current B.C. national executive representative for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Since the major tuition hikes in recent years, Reid says it has become harder for students to get involved with extra-curricular projects because they have to take on full- or part-time jobs to afford school. These seem to be the major factors limiting students from becoming involved with activism these days: time and money.

"I'm doing a master's by special arrangement. I largely set my own schedule, so I have the time to be really, really involved," says graduate student and director of the UVic Sustainability Project Jamie Biggar. "But if you're taking five classes, and you have a job and you're doing all sorts of other things, it's pretty hard to be that involved." Biggar notes another outcome of fee increases—the rise of a different demographic here on campus. People from middle- and upper-class families are attending universities because they can afford it. For some lower-income families, that's no longer the case.

"When you had the huge fee increases, you had a huge demographic of the university get essentially wiped out," says Biggar. "Now you have more students taking five classes, [school] costs more, and also you've got different kinds of people here."

Penny Beames, chairperson of the UVic Students' Society, shares Biggar's opinion. "Because tuition is going up, we're getting a different demographic on campus," says Beames. "So, you're getting students who might not necessarily have gotten involved in things like poverty activism or anti-war work because it might not affect them as directly."

THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY

One theory for this suspected slump in student activism is that the function of the university has changed. Today, universities have shifted their purpose from what it was in the '60s and '70s—equipping students with critical thinking and the ability to tackle larger issues. Jeff Friedrich, vice president of academic and university affairs at UBC, says that the university's "role now is more focused on career training." Reid says that "the university has become more of a job-creation vehicle" and believes it should return to a place of debate.

If the critical role of the university has in fact been minimized, whose fault is that? As Beames points out, administration can only direct students and the campus to a certain extent. The

A recent history of UVic student activism:

CARMEL ECKER PHOTO

March 2001

Students' Awareness for Vital Earth (SAVE) held a walkout to protest logging practices in B.C.

SUZANNE BEAUBIEN PHOTO

September 2002

Students present the minister of advanced education with a cheque for the fee hikes.

ERIK HAENSEL PHOTO

January 2003

A tank leftover from students rallying to stay out of the war in Iraq.

JEFF ANDREW PHOTO

January 2003

A student hangs suspended in the "ewok village" during the "Cunningham Tree Sit" to protest the cutting of UVic trees.

JOH

January 2003

At the same time as
ting, someone takes
approach.

PROVIDED PHOTO

today, tuition fees caused these UVic students to rally in of 2003.

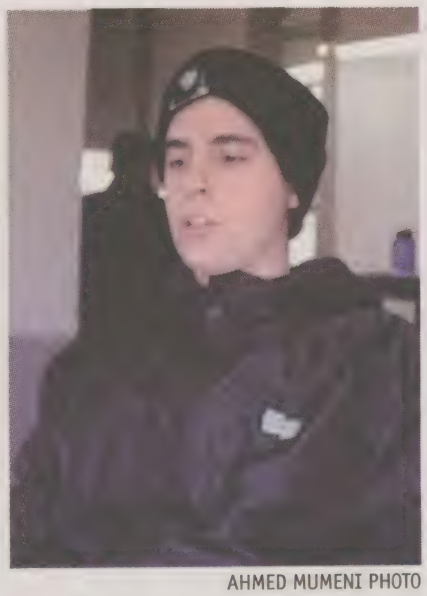
Active on campus:

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Penny Beames, chairperson of the UVic Students' Society. "The university setting is only what you want to get out of it."

WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Jamie Bigger, director of the UVic Sustainability Project. "Now you have more students taking five classes, [school] costs more, and also you've got different kinds of people here."



AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Andrew Barry, one of the founders of the Students Against War Club at UVic. "A lot of young people are pissed off and want to do something about [war]."

rest, she says, is up to us. She disagrees that students at UVic are any less active than they used to be. "I'm seeing first-year students who have only been here for two months who are already organizing the Students Against War club," says Beames. "The university setting is only what you want to get out of it."

Biggar says the campus environment is unique in that students can have the type of impact here that is impossible in other institutions. "It's a sort of a lower-risk environment, so you can also screw up a lot and it's not the end of the world.... You can really learn and grow and develop a lot by being engaged in whatever capacity."

IS PROTEST DEAD?

John Thompson, former UVic student and past editor-in-chief of the *Martlet*, says he thinks campus activism has always come in waves—right now it's in a dip. During the years he attended the university, from 1998 to 2004, he says he saw protests almost every weekend. "I myself dressed as a radical cheerleader, choked on tear gas in the streets of Seattle and Quebec City, and disrupted a Paul Martin fundraising dinner, held at the posh Laurel Point Inn, by joining a rowdy sit-in," writes Thompson in an e-mail. He says it might not even be a slump we're in, but more so a change of tactics. Thompson says that just because protests aren't as obvious every weekend, it doesn't mean that students don't care about social change. "Maybe they're trying to start ethical businesses," writes Thompson. "Maybe they're applying for internships to work overseas for non-profits. Maybe they're writing letters to their political representatives."

Scott Payne, chairperson of the CFS, sees protest as a way for groups to demonstrate a broad base of support for an issue, but doesn't think it's the most effective way of advocating for change. Other approaches, including meetings with government, polling, good research and strong campaigns must be combined with protest, he insists, to make an effective argument.

One of the most memorable uses of combining these tactics at UVic was 2003's infamous "Cunningham Tree Sit," when about 100 students took turns perching in their *Martlet*-nicknamed "ewok village" in the trees for nearly a month. They were up there to protest the cutting down of part of the Cunningham woods—between Ring Road and the current Medical Sciences Building—to make way for the new Engineering/Computer Science Building. Some of the trees were eventually cut down, but the tree squatting got the attention of UVic's administration, which then paid attention to what environmental groups had to say about the issue. "We ended up with a much better campus plan to guide the physical development of UVic than we would have if there hadn't been that tree-sit," says Biggar.

While Beames believes protesting is still a relevant form of activism and "[has] a really important role to play in letting the public and the government know what students want," others disagree. "Instead of wasting their time bitching about stuff they have no control over, students could be dedicating all that free time to something where they can actually have an effect," says Rich Lehman, a fourth-year English student. He points to initiatives, such as Raise-A-Reader or Rock Solid Foundation, as a better use of students' time.

Effective or not, protests seem to have lost popularity on university campuses. Friedrich has noted this change at UBC. "We've done surveys, and there's less of an appetite for aggressive activism, such as protests," he says, noting that it's unfortunate. "How severe do problems have to be before people get out on the street? I wish students cared enough to make that stand." In Friedrich's opinion, protest still has a huge role to play, especially at a university. "If you can't accomplish things at a university, where can you?"

JOHN THOMPSON PHOTO

ne as the tree sit-akes the sarcastic

AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

February 2005

Protesters gather at the campus recruiting booth of Canada's intelligence agency, CSIS, to denounce its use of security certificates.

PROVIDED PHOTO

November 2005

Students of the Western Canadian Wilderness Committee's UVic club perform ariel art outside McPherson Library to maintain the moratorium on oil and gas development of the coast of B.C.

JANINE BANDCROFT PHOTO

October 2006

Students, including the Students Against War Club, rally downtown for peace.

PROVIDED PHOTO

November 2006

Another protest organized by the Western Canadian Wilderness Committee's UVic club to end the logging of ancient forests in B.C.

Wordy white noise

by Nisa Malli

The human brain can filter out white noise, the texture of clothing fabric, and even our own heartbeats.

With *Minutia*, Robert Kelly uses instalment art, poetry and the everyday trappings of academia to argue that indefinite articles (an, a, some), definite articles (the), and conjunctions (and, but) are the white noise of language that we unconsciously filter out.

The exhibit showcases 11 wooden lecterns, each holding a book that deconstructs a single word. "The Book of The" is a one-word, 200-page mantra. "The Book of Sound" is an onomatopoeic exercise, each chapter scribed with a single sound effect.

Kelly based *Minutia* on a phrase he scribbled on a napkin over coffee five years ago when an acquaintance from Hong Kong described the quiet of Vancouver as "the first time I heard the sound of a page turning."

"Every day of your life, you get out of bed. You eat. Your heart is beating. You're breathing," said Kelly. "There is all this repeated phenomena that sometimes you are aware of but you don't remember. Our history is becoming compacted—we live our lives forgetting most of what we experience, the 'the, the, the.'"

Hearing Kelly speak is like hearing the exhibit—the metaphors pile up, overlapping and blockading. He pulls words out of context and uses half-Latin phrases, repeating himself for extra emphasis. While Kelly speaks, he pats his heart to the rhythm of the words, like a cardiac arrest patient pleased to see it still works.

Kelly said he is "taking language and using it as a kind of window onto the micro-aspects of our lives."

"The Book of Time" is on its way to being turned into a play. "The Book of Sounds" is being reprinted onto translucent onion-skin paper, so the text will layer like auditory sensation, elusive and slippery.

Kelly's work, which is on display at the university's Maltwood Gallery until Jan. 12, genre-bends with ease, straddling the division between writing and art. He calls it conceptual art, riffing on our expectations of the familiar formats of books.

It's a part of "this incredible fusion going on in contemporary creative expression," he said.

The English department at the University of Calgary, where Kelly is a professor, labelled the exhibit as "concrete poetry," while the art department called each page a painting.

Minutia is partly a cheeky jab at the institutions of art and literature.

"Any time you see a hardcover book on a lectern, it's a metaphor for the truth ... an encyclopedia, a Bible in a church," said Kelly. "Truth is a construct. But the truth is our language is a construct. So what I'm trying to do is call into question all of those things by re-contextualizing them."

CASSIDY NUNN PHOTO

One Drop's two saxophonists sang and played in a stellar tour-kick-off performance.

Ska, hip hop, reggae blend in

by Cassidy Nunn

The lineup for Saturday night's One Drop send-off concert at Sugar was stacked with local talent: Arbutus Trio, Current Swell and Kia Kadiri, with southern Californians guests Burnt.

The bands played ska, reggae, blues, hip-hop and punk at the nearly sold-out show put on by the Victoria Ska Society.

Arbutus Trio opened the night and had some of the crowd on their feet and a few dancers breaking out the skank by the end. The trio describes its sound as "three guys givin' 'er—flat out, hair back and flyin' high," which is exactly what they delivered.

The talented, energetic surfer boys of Current Swell had almost the whole crowd up and dancing by the end of their first song. The audience was further hyped up when a rep from Sitka Surfboards, the band's sponsor, brought a backpack loaded with free swag onto the stage and tossed out a huge amount of Sitka gear.

With slide guitar, harmonica and some harmonizing, Current Swell's upbeat mix of blues, folk and reggae was easy to enjoy. The band members played songs from their first album, *So I Say*, with a few new ones they are recording.

Burnt put on a good—but far too short—set following Current Swell's performance. The band managed to keep the energy up with its blend of ska, reggae and hip hop. The MC, one of the few members without dreads, delivered refreshing rhymes and finished with a solo rap that had everyone wanting more, but unfortunately, there was no encore. In general, the band lived up to its name and looked burned out.

Local MC Kia Kadiri wasted no time getting her energetic performance started. Her first song grabbed everyone's attention, but it was followed by technical difficulties. She tried to keep things rolling by doing an acoustic rap, but the technical problems continued, and by the end of the set, she had lost her momentum.

One Drop kicked off its finale set with its surging blend of upbeat, in-your-face ska, punk, reggae and dancehall. Parts of the crowd turned into a mosh pit, and there was even a failed attempt at crowd surfing.

The band members, especially the two saxophone players, gave a stellar performance for their last hometown performance of the year—the boys are off to tour down the west coast of the U.S., playing a couple of shows with Burnt.

From the sounds of the send-off, One Drop will have a successful tour if they can continue to deliver with such enormous energy.

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Fine arts students make room for pop art

by Jessica Smith

There's a rising trend in the popularity of comic-book-style graphic art, but there's no outlet for popular art in the fine arts program, according to visual arts instructor Ho Tam.

"[Students] come into the department and they think they are going to do illustrations and more graphic design work, but in fine arts, we're teaching more conceptual-based work, which is not what the students are expecting."

Tam said that the department doesn't teach graphic art because it's more of an applied art used in advertising.

"We teach more contemporary painting, drawing and video and sculpture."

A lot of Tam's students are interested in comic books and graphic novels, and he sees a lot of influence from Japanese anime in their work. As a teacher, he likes to encourage students and pay attention to what kind of art they want to make, so this year, his Art 300 class is making a zine.

Tam has asked his students to create art that will work with the boundaries of fine arts drawing, graphic art and comic book style.

The boundary between popular art and fine art is becoming more blurred, and Tam has been seeing a "cross-pollination of the two."

Tam points to a Vancouver art exhibit of an artist who combined traditional Haida art with graphic art. He's also seen Art Spielgelman's *Maus*, a graphic novel about the Second World War, displayed in fine-arts settings. Conversely, Tam has been noticing fine arts being incorporated into graphic and design settings.

People are "combining different mediums for communications, depending on what they want to say and what kind of message they want to get out," said Tam.

Graphic arts are also making their way into the history, English and education classrooms at UVic, where historical graphic novels *Maus* and *Persepolis*, by Marjane Satrapi, are required textbooks this year.

CHERYL HENHAWK IMAGES

Cheryl Henhawk's drawings for the Art 300 zine were inspired by her mixed roots, Ho Tam said. She is exploring "bi-tradition" with the images of her curly hair and a traditional headdress contrasted with cowboy hat in the left image. She drew nature alongside traditional art in the image on the right.

Tooooooo bad Ms. Super Sexy didn't use her x-ray vision on her bones.
mmmmm MCola
Manly Man, was it really worth your identity?
MBEER.

MICHELLE LEVESQUE IMAGES

"The two images are a play on superheroes doing product advertising for "MCola" and "MBEER". They're meant to be humorous ... maybe with a little dark humour," Michelle Levesque wrote to the *Martlet*. She aspires to a career creating graphic novels.

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A child's Christmas tradition

Performance of *The Nutcracker Suite* at the Royal Theatre was followed by a fresh snowfall

by Jennifer Cook

There is little in it for dancers, nothing in it for art, and it was a step downward for the artistic fate of The Kirov Ballet, said a St. Petersburg critic of the premiere of *The Nutcracker Suite* in 1892.

It was an astonishing beginning for a ballet that has become a classic dance story and a beloved Christmas tradition.

The Nutcracker has become an annual tradition in the city as part of the Victoria Dance Series. This year, from Nov. 24 to 27, it was performed at the Royal Theatre by the Alberta Ballet and accompanied by a group of young local dancers and the Victoria Symphony.

The Nutcracker is often the performance that turns youngsters on to ballet. Such was the case for Victoria native Alexis Maragozis, the principal dancer of the Alberta Ballet.

"It's funny," she said, "I was sort of inspired by a performance of *The Nutcracker* the Alberta Ballet did when I was three or four years old, and here I am performing in it."

The ballet's ongoing popularity, despite original reviews, is easy to understand.

"It's all in the spirit of Christmas," Maragozis said. The audience can relive childhood fantasies through a story where toys come to life, good vanquishes evil and a little girl is whisked away by a handsome prince to an enchanted land.

Less obvious, perhaps, is how the magic is maintained despite some disenchanting factors. There is a disconnect between the enchantment of the story and the fact that *The Nutcracker* is an important money-maker for a dance company, and as such is a ballet that dancers perform year after year.

"It's difficult to keep it at the same level and keep it alive and keep it interesting for some of us who have been in the same production several years in a row," said Maragozis. "You realize it's so exciting for all these kids, so it kind of gets you in the spirit."

The child dancers inevitably steal the show. Whenever there are kids in the performance, there will be the occasional onstage "oops," but the audience loves them more for their mistakes. The young dancers from the West Coast Academy of Performing Arts did an amazing job, especially when even the professionals couldn't boast an entirely flawless performance.

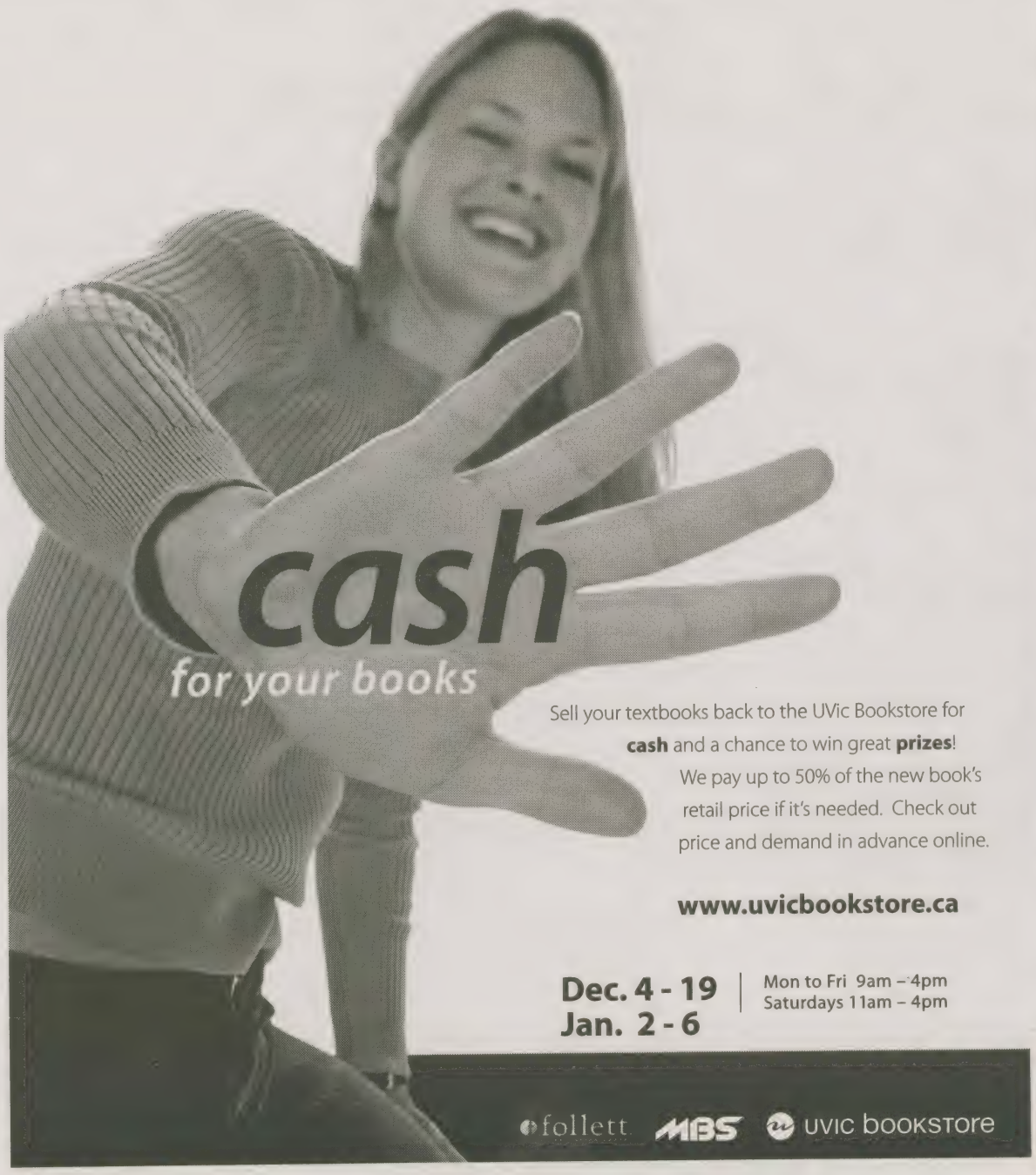
The Nutcracker is near and dear to my heart and such was the case for many people who attended the nearly sold-out show on Nov. 25.

Years before I joined the audience, I was standing backstage, bursting with the same anticipation I see in the faces of children around me. For those who have danced or still do, it's magic to relive. Even from the first notes, Tchaikovsky's famous score gives me goosebumps.

The next morning, Victoria woke up to fresh falling snow of the sort that makes for the most enchanted childhood Christmas Eves.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Leigh Allaradyce and Reid Bartelmeme star in *The Nutcracker*.



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Trevor Hinton gives an intensely physical performance as Richard in *Richard III*.

Richard III at the Phoenix

by Laura Cameron

"Therefore since I cannot prove a lover," Richard laments in his opening monologue, "I am determined to prove a villain."

Trevor Hinton is starring as Richard in *Richard III*, directed by the outgoing dean of fine arts, Giles Hogya, in his last UVic production. The show runs until Dec. 2 at the Phoenix Theatre.

Hinton nails the evil and charisma of Richard in a unique interpretation of one of the most difficult characters in theatre. He portrays the nefarious cripple as a mischievous villain that falls somewhere between Puck and Dr. Evil.

Other highlights include brilliant performances by Carey Wass as Hastings and Christopher Mackie as Richard's spin doctor, Buckingham. The actors skilfully incorporate humour into the play, which is commonly classified as a history or tragedy.

Hogya said that he chose the play because he felt that the student body this year was particularly ready to take on work of such an ambitious scope. He attributes the play's success to a tremendous artistic team.

"I would like to take credit for everything, but I truly can't," said Hogya. Hogya got the opportunity to play Richard in his fourth year at university, but said that Hinton is doing a much better job.

Costume designer Mary Kerr, winner of seven Dora Mavor Moore Awards and three Sterling Awards, effectively balances Allan Stichbury's bare set design with costumes that situate the characters in the modern day.

The most striking character is Jane Shore, the infamous courtesan of Lord Hastings, among others. Historically, prior to Hastings, Jane Shore was the first in a series of mistresses that King Edward IV called respectively "the merriest," "the wiliest" and "the holiest" harlots in his realm. Played by Kaitlyn Regehr (and in alternate performances by Kassia Warshawski), she is clad in a vampish leopard-print trenchcoat or in only a man's collared shirt.

Stichbury, lighting designer Tim Herron and the fight choreographer Nicholas Harrison are former students of Hogya and have all returned to the Phoenix to take part in his last production.

Hogya said that Stichbury's minimalist aesthetic is similar to his own.

He doesn't like high-concept plays because the text and the acting should be the main focus. Hogya has experience directing productions by modern playwright Samuel Beckett, and he tried to achieve a similar leanness in this production of *Richard III*.

Hogya said that people working on the stage "cannot compete with the spectacle and realism of film. What we can do is offer an intimate and impactful night at the theatre."

Online feed fees hurt campus radio

by Megan Drysdale

WILLIE LI PHOTO

Kate Hollefreund is one of the CFUV staff members that could be affected by Tariff 22.

Non-profit university radio stations may not be able to afford online broadcasts if a new law passes requiring them to pay additional licencing fees.

Tariff 22 states that in order to broadcast music online, non-profit radio stations must pay an additional 7.5 per cent of their gross income, or $200 a month, whichever is greater. The Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) is presenting their proposal for Tariff 22 to the Copyright Board of Canada.

This fee is over and above what campus and other non-profit radio stations already pay in fees to SOCAN for their regular radio broadcasts.

According to SOCAN's current tariff, non-profit radio stations are required to pay 1.9 per cent of their gross operating costs for a "licence to perform, at any time and as often as desired in 2007, for private or domestic use, any or all works in SOCAN's repertoire."

Commercial radio stations are asked to pay 20 per cent of their gross income, or $200 a month, whichever is greater.

"I may have my doubts that [the tariff] will pass, but I may have too much faith in the copyright board," said Randy Gelling, CFUV manager.

The online broadcast, available on the CFUV website, is a simulcast of the station's regular radio programming. According to Gelling, there are only a few hundred online listeners, compared to the 6,000 to 9,000 who listen to the campus FM station at any given time.

SOCAN facilitates the performance rights of 80,000 national and hundreds of thousands of international musicians and composers who are registered with the organization. SOCAN collects and distributes the fees to its members.

Gelling finds it unlikely that the station will stop their online feed.

"It's a choice between stopping broadcasting on the Internet or cutting back elsewhere," he said. "We may have to cut a part-time job for a student.... It would be a painful decision."

The tariff was first filed with the Copyright Board of Canada in 1996 and filed again in 1997 with minor changes. It was reviewed by the Copyright Board in 1999. The Supreme Court of Canada and the Federal Court of Appeal asked for changes to be made in 2004. Subsequently, SOCAN filed again in 2006 with the changes in place.

The hearing takes place on April 17, 2007 in Ottawa.

SOCAN was unavailable to comment on the proposed tariff.

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The Be Good Tanyas now have creature comforts on the road.

Canadian band, U.S. roots

The Be Good Tanyas find Canadian music history in the American South

by Jessica Smith

The Be Good Tanyas started their music career playing on the streets of Vancouver and New Orleans and outside of the gates of Lilith Fair. Now they're touring Europe.

"We get treated really well over here," said Samantha Parton, one member of the female folk trio. "We've got a bus, someone else is doing all the driving and we're getting good food. The [U.S.] tour we did before this was extremely stressful, very busy, lots of flying, lots of press and not a lot of time to eat or sleep."

The Be Good Tanyas play American roots music, often about being hobos and living a wandering life. This focus in their music comes from what Parton calls her "restless existence," a compulsion to be on the road.

"I could never stand to live anywhere really, or be in one place. I got really bored ... and I still do."

The band is forced to "pay more attention to creature comforts on the road," Parton said, now that they're getting older and bandmate Frazey Ford has a son who accompanies the band on longer tours.

Having her own children has never been one of Parton's top priorities. She has always put music and the "compulsion to wander" first.

"I think a lot of people succumb," she says, laughing at her own choice of words, "to the urge to have children, and I think that's wonderful, but certainly a lot of dreams get waylaid."

Her wanderlust exposed her to what she calls the "source music" of the kind of folk the Be Good Tanyas play. Spending her 20s and early 30s in New Orleans—"the hotbed of what we call American roots music"—Parton collaborated with Be Good Tanyas cofounder and former member Jolie Holland.

The band is Canadian, but aside from a Neil Young cover, they play little Canadian music.

"I don't know what Canadian [roots] music is," said Parton. "Maybe if I grew up on the East Coast or in Quebec or in Ontario I might have a sense of what that means, but growing up on the West Coast, it's such a new place and I have no sense of what Canadian music was." She traces the history of Canadian music back to the American South.

The sense of history in the Be Good Tanyas' music leads to comments about anachronism and timelessness in the media.

She explains that they don't play Civil War-era music, but they do reference it, "so it's not going to be something that you listen to and go, 'that's so 1997,'" she says. "If you really break it down, music is timeless."

When they return from their European tour, the Be Good Tanyas will be playing at the Alix Gooldin Hall on Dec. 1.

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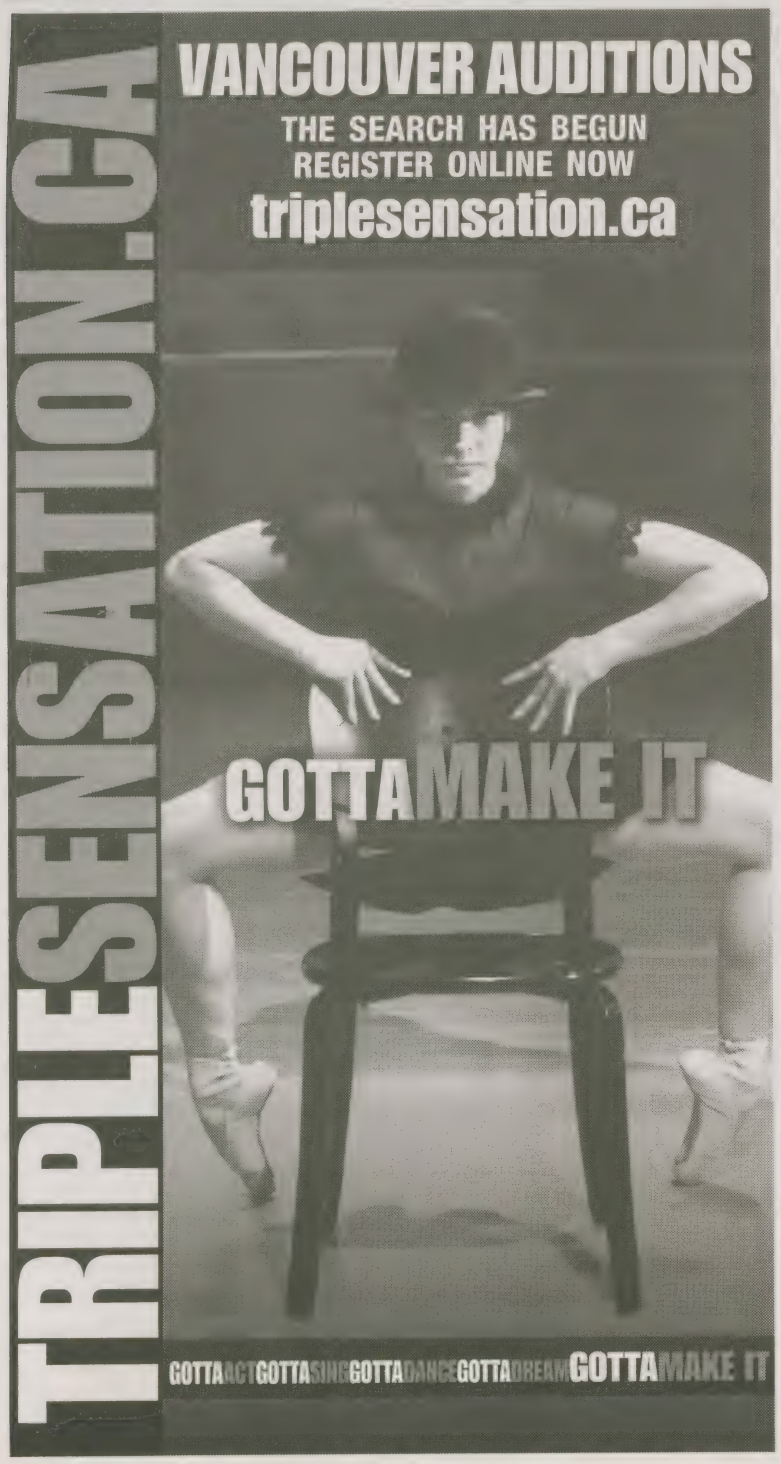

Promiscuity heaven

Easy girls and hipster darlings shimmer in the hereafter, says Shane Nelken of The Awkward Stage

by Jessica Smith

Shane Nelken of The Awkward Stage, one of Vancouver's newest indie pop bands, is working his "day job" as a crematorium—receiving bodies, putting them in "the torch," processing the remains and assisting with funeral preparations.

"Our normal graveyard-shift guy, no pun intended, is away for a week, so I've agreed to stay late and do a few more cremations before having my weekend," he says on the phone from Vancouver.

Nelkin's morbid job doesn't affect his songwriting—not yet, anyway. He believes that once you confront death and realize "death isn't going to be a parade through the city square or anything, I just end up in this box," death becomes commonplace.

The Awkward Stage's debut album, *Heaven is for Easy Girls*, is a tongue-in-cheek look at high school trauma and Vancouver's hipster scene.

"It's a pop record, and my sense of humour and pop music both come from darkness," says Nelken.

Some of the crematorium's darkness comes from adolescent humiliation, which he believes people never outgrow.

"I'm sure the first time a senior loses control of their bowels, they probably immediately snap to that time in gym class when they got pantsed," he says. "That same feeling of shame. That's the engine that drives The Awkward Stage: shame and the desire to be validated and accepted."

Nelken had his share of embarrassments as a teen. He had two sharp, fang-like teeth that grew "straight out like tusks" and made him look like a "walrus or sabre-toothed tiger." When the dentist examined him for braces, he told Nelken, "Halloween's over."

PROVIDED PHOTO

Shane Nelken woos his prom date on the cover of his new album.

Kids were cruel to him too.

"I was hung on the cloth dispenser [you use] to dry your hands—they wrapped it around my head and threatened to hang me."

What he regrets most about his awkward years was lashing out and bullying others, he says: "it wasn't all poor me, poor me, stuck in a locker—I did it too."

Nelken's desire to be validated and accepted is being fulfilled within the Vancouver indie music scene, which has a reputation for being snobby and insular.

His lyrics parody the scenester whose "shimmer's ever dimmer the more [he] strive[s]" in "I Love You, Hipster Darling."

It seems that Nelken has a love/hate relationship with the scene he describes as territorial and fickle, but is also talented and supportive.

He started out as a ringer for "more reputable bands," including A.C. Newman, and played in bands that never recorded an album and so were soon forgotten.

He started The Awkward Stage by recording all of the parts himself in a basement studio, before he recruited other band members. Nelken has since been signed to Mint Records and will be playing at their Christmas Party at Lucky Bar on Dec. 1.

The *Heaven is for Easy Girls* album cover itself suggests that Nelken is still working through the trauma of his awkward stage. It shows him wearing headgear and a funeral-garb tuxedo and trying to pin a corsage on a blow-up doll.

"It would make me happy if I could concentrate on writing songs instead of cremating people—it would help my moods," he says.

PROVIDED PHOTO

KarmetiK incorporates Indian influences in their electronica.

KarmetiK fusion

by Kim Armstrong

Music fusion may not be a new concept, but Victoria's KarmetiK Underground adds a strange new twist to the term—they fuse music with computers.

"We focus on music technology," says band member Manj Benning, a UVic graduate student. "Ajay's doing musical robots, robots that play drums, and I've done some work with beat-boxing and teaching a computer to understand beat-boxing."

Both Benning and fellow musician Ajay Kapur are involved in MISTIC, UVic's music intelligence and sound technology research program.

"The stuff we're all building is part of all that research work at school. It's in fulfilment of our graduate degree ... just to kind of use computers and take music performance to the next level," says Benning.

The group incorporates many different electronic gadgets, instruments and techniques into their music.

"The basic set-up is we have drums, we have guitar, which runs through an effects processor, we have a guy on keyboards, and he runs all his sounds through a computer, and then we have myself," says Benning. "I play bass, and I have my bass running through a computer as well, so we do some of our own programming effects."

The group has also incorporated sensors into their instruments so that each time they move or hit a note, the data is transmitted to a computer. This data is sent to a visuals guy at the back of the performance venue to be used to manipulate the visuals as they play.

"It kind of creates this immersive interactive environment where the music is creating the visuals and the visuals are inspiring the musicians and the people in the crowd," said Benning.

Benning and Kapur, along with fellow group members Jesse Brown and Satnam Minhas, have been playing in the band for 15 months. Prior to that, all four soon-to-be band members travelled separately to India to study traditional music. Three of the four are themselves East Indian—Kapur, Benning and Minhas—and all four have been playing Indian instruments, such as the sitar and the tabla, for many years.

"A lot of our musical compositions have underlying Indian themes in them," says Benning. "We use Indian theories and Indian graga [melodic] theories in a subtle way. We also do more not-so-subtle performances, like we'll have tablas and sitar and I'll hop on the drum set and we'll do some fusion stuff with a vocalist or Ajay will be playing sitar."

Kapur has played the drums for 18 years, but he is also trying to get in touch with his cultural roots.

"I finally started to realize that I wanted to learn my own culture, so I went to India, and started learning tabla," he said. "I've been going back every one or two years for about three months at a time to study tabla." Kapur has created an electronic sitar to play with the group, as well as electronic tables, and helped create a set of electronic drums that, according to Benning, "can track the position of your drumsticks in 3 dimensional space above the surface. It's kind of like a drum face that knows that it's going to be hit before you hit it."

The band has toured around B.C., Oregon and California and plans to tour again next summer, when they will go to India to study music, learn from music and produce an album.

"We're collaborating with a group over there called Bombay Electric. They have a night club, and they're sort of starting a music scene there, and we've been asked to be the house band, the resident band in Bombay starting next fall," said Benning.

Benning said that their main goal in this endeavour is to bridge Victoria and Bombay together musically.

"We want to bring it back to the West Coast and then incorporate it into the kind of psychedelic West Coast feeling that we have here and brew up some new kind of music."

In the meantime, KarmetiK Underground is planning the launch of their first full-length album in Victoria at Central Bar and Grill on Dec 15.

"It's taken us six months to make [the album]," said Kapur. "We didn't rush at all; we definitely tried to make it as perfect as we could."

Star-studded philanthropy

by Dock Currie

It's an unpopular notion, but in an age where Warren Buffet donates $37 billion to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the altruistic act of giving that we know as "charity" might have been killed by "charity" as a public-relations tactic for celebrities.

While some celebrity activists might be easy to abstract from the rest as dishonest and opportunistic, the majority can happily hop on the affluent bandwagon because it is very seldom that anyone gets punished for taking an interest in worldwide social ills.

Between George Clooney's and Bono's pious quests for world peace and Angelina Jolie's and Madonna's attempts to "adopt away poverty," the whole of Southern California has taken up arms against a sea of troubles. But celebrity altruism can only go so far before the law of diminishing returns takes a big bite out of the spin value of lending your name to a good cause. And when that happens, it will, of course, be interesting to see if celebrity altruism is, in fact, altruistic.

In the next few weeks, the film *Blood Diamond*, a story about the devastating effects of the African diamond trade in the 1990s, directed by Edward Zwick and starring Leonardo DiCaprio, will be released in theatres. The film comes at a time when seeming socially aware is, in a sense, in vogue. But, not surprisingly, Zwick doesn't feel that his movie is necessarily part of the identifiable trend of media-borne altruism.

"It's very hard for there to be a trend in Hollywood because all of us began in our separate places about two years ago thinking that we were the first people ever to have these ideas," said Zwick. "It doesn't take a genius to see what's gone on in terms of the exploitation of resources in the third world."

An editorial in Britain's *The Independent* called it "new philanthropy," which is to say, philanthropy reserved entirely for the famous and the jaw-droppingly rich. The editorial was in response to the Fortune Forum, a club where the wealthiest of British citizens can go to hear talks from guests such as Bill Clinton without having to share an audience with members of the lower tax brackets.

The question, then, is to what extent the upper crust's involvement in the institution of giving can be said to represent an actual understanding of the problems they purport to be addressing. And, while the Brits in the Fortune Forum might be content to play the armchair savior to the continent of Africa, there are a surprising number of Hollywood elites who are legitimately getting their hands dirty with the problems of hunger, disease and poverty.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Leonardo DiCaprio stars in *Blood Diamond*.

"Going to an orphanage, for example, in the middle of Mozambique, which has a horrific AIDS rate and where people live in poverty, to see those who've lost their parents, it makes you want to give back," said DiCaprio after going to Africa for his role as a South African ex-mercenary in *Blood Diamond*. "We felt moved by the people there and felt moved by the circumstances that they have to endure day in and day out."

It's unlikely that anyone would go so far as saying that a celebrity acting in a manner that demonstrates some level of social awareness is a bad thing, but the influx of big names into the business of rectifying the world's woes is certainly a double-edged sword. On the one hand, the name recognition of stars such as DiCaprio lends credit to issues that might otherwise be ignored, and there is no shortage of issues that need to be addressed; but conversely, commitment to these causes is where the possible problems of celebrity altruism lie.

As much as the Sunset Strip crowd might be really jazzed on doing their part today, the problems of Africa aren't likely to be solved in any comprehensive manner for many years, regardless of their involvement. Bob Geldof might have another 20 years of activism left in him, but it remains to be seen if the Hollywood community has even another five.

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TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27TH

✻ means Canadian artist. † means local artist.

1. VARIOUS
   Plague Songs (4AD)
2. CHRIS FRYE & THE ANALOG GHOSTS †
   Raised On Rhythm and Rhyme (Pacific Music)
3. PAS/CAL
   Dear Sir (Le Grand Magistery)
4. PJ HARVEY
   Peel Sessions (Island)
5. HENRI FABERGE & THE ADORABLES *
   Henri Faberge & The Adorables (Independent)
6. TOM WAITS
   Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers and Bastards (Anti-)
7. THE DRONES
   Gala Mill (ATP)
8. JACKIE MITTOO *
   Wishbone (Light In The Attic)
9. PERNICE BROTHERS
   Live A Little (Ashmont)
10. THE BLOW
    Paper Television (K)

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Davis nets four goals in victory

by Dock Currie

PROVIDED PHOTO

UVic's fledgling hockey team won two games against UNBC.

It was a fast-paced game of telephone tag when UVic met the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) on Nov. 25 at the Ian Stewart Complex.

The match was the second in less than 24 hours between the two teams, both members of the fledgling B.C. Intercollegiate Hockey League (BCIHL).

UVic captain Drew Davis broke a 4-4 tie with three minutes to go in the third period to fend off a much stronger effort by UNBC than the previous night. In that game, UNBC went down early and stayed down for a devastating 11-3 blowout for UVic.

"It was actually our old minor hockey league goalie that we scored all those goals on," said Davis, referring to UNBC's Chris Lockerby, who was replaced on Saturday by Nic West.

UNBC got on the board first with a goal from the left lane by Dave Bauman, assisted by Clarke Anderson seven minutes into the first period. UVic was quick to answer back with a goal from Davis 57 seconds later, with Dan Birch drawing an assist.

UNBC scored less than a minute into the second period when Quinn Waddington took the puck the length of the rink, past the UVic blueliners and into the net. He fanned on his first shot but put the rebound over the left shoulder of UVic tender Gordon Neave.

Davis equalized with a shot from the point less than 15 seconds later to tie the score at 2.

The teams traded goals in the last minute of the second, with Davis getting the hat trick for UVic.

UNBC would go up 4-3 less than three minutes into the third period when UNBC's Jordan Persky capitalized on a penalty shot given after a blatant, unnecessary trip by Etienne du Tois. The UVic bench called it a dive, but the refs disagreed.

In the middle of the third, UVic defenseman Brian Ho Yee threw a floater from 20 feet out that somehow beat West. And, with three minutes left in the game, Davis scored his fourth, and the game-winner, to put UVic up 5-4.

"We definitely weren't giving the best effort we've had all year," said UVic goalie Gordon Neave. "We know what we did wrong and we were really lucky to get away with it."

UNBC coach Chris Lennox agreed that UVic was lucky, and was happy with a much better performance than his team had in the first game. So what was different between the two games?

"Not being on the bus for 12 hours to get down here," said Lennox. "A bus ride like that is very difficult on the body." His team was missing five players because of injuries and suspensions.

Davis said the second game was more challenging than the first.

"We were worried, for sure, but we're not looking for blowouts," he said. "We're just glad to win, and it was good that [UNBC] had a better effort tonight."

PROVIDED PHOTO

A member of UVic's Caving Club explores a cave. Vancouver Island has over 1,000 caves, many of them in and around Tahsis.

Spelunking rocks

by Hilary Agro

Crawling around on your belly in the mud inside a cave may not sound like fun, but for roughly 30 UVic students, it's a passion.

The UVic Caving Club has been exploring Vancouver Island caves for over 30 years. The sport involves rock climbing, rappelling and hiking—all in places that no one's ever been before.

From the 80 or so spelunkers who sign up at the beginning of each year, about 30 go on the novice trips. From that, participation on subsequent trips usually drops to around 10 to 12.

Fern Wager, president of the club, says that low numbers are ideal for caving.

"You move so slowly when there's too many people," she said. "You're like a giant Slinky."

As the year goes on, the club starts to tackle more challenging caves.

"Things get more and more technical as we go on," said Wager. "We do some crawling, which is very muddy and wet, but then we practise ropes so we can rappel down and climb up 30-plus-feet pitches."

Indeed, the only above-ground work they ever do is ropes practice. Other than that, once they've found a cave entrance, it's goodbye sunshine.

"We're in the caves for about four to six hours at a time," said Wager. For food? PowerBars. For fluid? "We drink water that's in the caves. There are underground waterfalls and streams, and they're all very clean."

According to Wager, Vancouver Island houses the second-longest cave in British Columbia and more caves than the rest of the province combined. It's estimated that the Island has more than 1,000 caves. Most are in Tahsis, west of Campbell River.

"Tahsis is a popular spot for all of Canada," said Wager. "People come up from the states and other provinces. It's like a little caving mecca."

The club also has expert Jim Jacek helping them out. Jacek is a member of the Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group and acts as equipment manager as well as a guide for the club. Twenty years ago, after the club had been inactive for a number of years, Jacek helped to get it back on its feet. He's been with them ever since.

"Some of the caves are very delicate," said Jacek, who also teaches members about cave conservation. "The safest way to protect a cave is to not tell anybody where it is. As soon as it's published on a map, everybody wants to go there." Publicity can lead to problems such as parties in caves. Broken glass and spray paint add little to the geological beauty of the caves. But finding an untouched cave can be priceless.

"There's so much unspoiled beauty to explore," said Jacek. "Everything's in its pristine form."

There are obvious recreational, physical and scientific benefits to the sport. But there can be personal gains from caving as well.

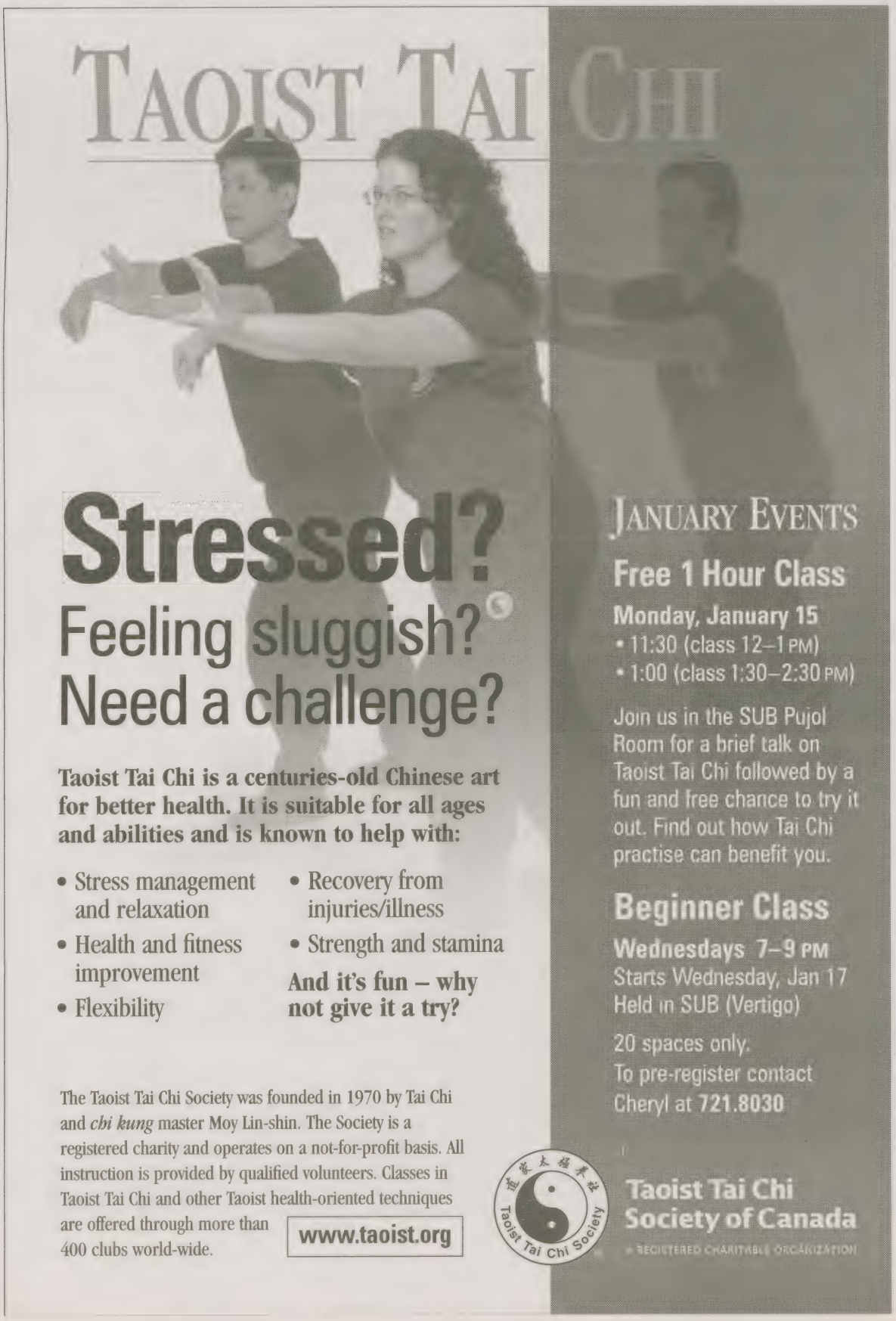
"It can be quite mentally demanding. Sometimes you just need to take a deep breath and really think about getting around an obstacle," said Wager. "It's the thrill of being somewhere that no one's ever been before that makes it worth it."

You also have to be ready to do unconventional things with your body. "The underground passages generally follow streams," said Wager. "They can be very narrow—you can be walking or crawling. It often involves squeezing into awkward positions."

There's also a teamwork element. Explorers must work together inside the caves.

"It is quite exciting and adventurous—you're putting your life in someone else's hands," said Jacek. "At the end of the day, you leave with a real sense of camaraderie and friendship."

Club members pay $20 for the school year, which includes access to all the requisite equipment: lights, helmets, vertical gear and harnesses. The only thing that budding spelunkers need are boots, coveralls to protect the belly from jagged rocks, and enthusiasm.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UVic wins Barnard Cup

by David Karp

SHARON TIFFIN PHOTO

The Vikes' Dave Carter tries to avoid a tackle by the Wanderers' John Graf in the Barnard Cup final.

It was an epic battle between Vancouver Island's top two rugby teams, one which could have been scripted for a Hollywood movie.

In the end, it was the Vikes who triumphed, defeating Victoria's Castaway Wanderers 25-23 to win their first Barnard Cup in more than 25 years on Nov. 26.

Neither team seemed deterred by the near-freezing weather or muddy field, nor did the conditions prevent roughly 300 fans from coming out to watch the game at Windsor Park in Oak Bay.

Despite missing 10 starters who were away on national team duty, UVic got off to a roaring start. The Vikes scored their first three points two minutes into the game when fly half Steve Piatek made a penalty kick from a Wes Aylward penalty.

A couple of minutes later, Doug Matthews powered down the right flank, setting up a try by Dave Carter. Piatek made the conversion to put his team up 10-0 less than five minutes in.

"That hurt us," said Wanderers coach Spencer Robinson, who said his team was overexcited early on. "It's like we started the game behind 10 points."

Fifteen minutes later, the Vikes expanded their lead to 13 after relentless pressure forced Wanderers to concede an easy penalty kick.

But it wouldn't hold. Wanderers answered back in the 25th minute with a try and the convert. The Vikes almost conceded another two minutes later when Matthews bobbled the ball in his own end zone but managed to kick the ball away just in time.

Wanderers added three more points just before halftime thanks to a John Graf penalty kick.

Five minutes into the second half, UVic scrum half Brian Hutchinson scored a try in the right corner, capitalizing on a funny bounce of a Wanderers clearance. But Piatek couldn't make the conversion from a bad angle.

Wanderers replied with their own try five minutes later but also couldn't convert.

The try seemed to inspire Wanderers, and they started attacking with more confidence. They forced the Vikes into penalty after penalty on defence, but kept pushing for the try rather than taking the goal kick.

Finally, Wanderers took a goal kick from point-blank range, tying the score to 18 apiece. Vikes coach Doug Tate said that turned the game in the Vikes' favour.

"We had a goal-line stand for five minutes, and they ended up with a goal kick and not a try," said Tate. "They really had us under pressure."

Then, with five minutes left Wanderers scored what seemed to be the winning try after a powerful charge by the Wanderers. The Vikes appeared frustrated, directing some harsh words and some pushing and shoving at their opponents.

After the referee separated the two teams, scrum half Graf took the convert, missing from close range.

With the game on the line, UVic charged downfield. They managed to get the ball into the Wanderers' own 22 but couldn't seem to crack the defence. The Vikes worked the ball back and forth across the field, looking for a hole to exploit.

Finally, in the dying seconds, lock Mike MacKay managed to squeeze in past the Wanderer defence to score a try in the middle of the field, tying the game.

"I saw a little hole," said MacKay, the right half of his face caked in mud. "To tell you the truth, it was pretty whirlwind last-minute panic to just try and get something going. I just saw a line and took it."

That set up an easy, yet crucial, convert for Piatek. He made no mistake, securing the win on what was the final play of the game.

Vikes lock Pat Kearney touted the team's depth as the difference in the championship. "We have a winning mentality," he said. "We finished top of the league in every division on the Island this year, and that goes to show for something for the guys who get called up to the Vikes for their first call in the championship game."

Unfortunately, there was a mix-up, and the Barnard Cup was not at the tournament for the Vikes to hoist.

UVic Scoreboard!

Women's Basketball

Nov. 25 UVic 64 UCFV 51
Nov. 24 UVic 56 UCFV 47

Men's Basketball

Nov. 25 UVic 76 UCFV 75
Nov. 24 UVic 86 UCFV 73

Men's Field Hockey

Nov. 19 Rebels 2 UVic 0

Men's Ice Hockey

Nov. 25 UVic 5 UNBC 4
Nov. 24 UVic 11 UNBC 3

Women's Rugby

Nov. 25 Nanaimo 25 UVic 12

Men's Rugby (Elite League)

Nov. 25 UVic 25 Castaway 23

Men's Rugby (First Division)

Nov. 25 UVic 69 Cowichan 19

SPORTS SHORTS

Vikes unstoppable

The Vikes men's basketball team is still undefeated this season, improving its record to 10-0 with two wins over the University College of the Fraser Valley.

The Vikes are tied atop the Canada West standings with rivals UBC. The teams will face each other for the first time this season on Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. at UBC's War Memorial Gym. Fans can listen to the game online through the Vikes Broadcast Network.

UVic is ranked third in the country, while UBC is second behind Carleton University. The top two teams in Canada West automatically make the eight-team national championship in Halifax, while a wild-card spot is available for a third team. It's been 10 seasons since the Vikes won the national championship.

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Soccer fights AIDS in Africa

by Alex Gillett

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI IMAGE

Dr. Tommy Clark uses soccer to teach African kids about AIDS.

Imagine having your sports hero be your elementary or middle school teacher for two entire weeks.

For some children in Africa, this dream has become a reality thanks to a non-profit organization called Grassroot Soccer.

Founded in 2003 by American Dr. Tommy Clark, Grassroot Soccer uses professional soccer players and other role models as HIV educators for African children.

"Using the power of soccer in the fight against AIDS, Grassroot Soccer provides African youth with the skills and support to live HIV free," reads the group's mission statement on its website.

Clark, who spent part of his childhood in Zimbabwe and later returned to play professional soccer there, conceived of the idea for Grassroot after watching many of his friends and teammates in Africa die from AIDS.

After Clark returned to the United States to attend medical school in 1998, he began recruiting many of his U.S. teammates to help him create Grassroot Soccer. Three of those friends, Kirk Friedrich, Methembe Ndlovu and Ethan Zohn (you might remember him from *Survivor: Africa*), became co-founders.

In 2003, the program was piloted in Zimbabwe with 14 professional African soccer players teaching the curriculum. With help from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Grassroot expanded into Zambia and Botswana in 2005 and will soon exist in South Africa too.

The innovative Grassroot curriculum is designed to break down the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and to educate African youth and communities at large about this disease. Educators often use games to help get their points across. For example, in a game called "Find the Ball," one team passes a soccer ball behind their backs while another team tries to guess who has it, illustrating that it is impossible to tell if someone is HIV-positive just by looking at them.

"Grassroot Soccer has in its four years of existence already graduated some 125,000 Africans; we hope to reach millions by the time the World Cup comes to South Africa in 2010," wrote David Harrison, a Grassroot representative, in an e-mail.

Harrison noted that Grassroot has also carried out projects in other African countries, including Namibia, Ethiopia, Liberia and Lesotho, in partnership with other organizations.

"We are also about to embark on a project for Mercy Corps in the Sudan," wrote Harrison. "As best we can, we try to devote appropriate attention to all our undertakings to ensure their successful delivery of our HIV/AIDS prevention curriculum."

To ensure that the program was in fact having an impact, the Children's Health Council of Stanford University carried out an independent evaluation of Grassroot Soccer in 2004 that proved that many positive changes have occurred as a result of the project.

Among them was a shift in students' attitudes and knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

"The percentage of students who could list three people they could talk to about HIV increased from 33 per cent to 72 per cent," is one of the statistics cited in the Stanford report.

As one would expect, a program with this sort of impact would not be possible without the help of many staff and sponsors. The group also looks for university and college graduates to join their Africa Teaching Intern program.

People around the world are pitching in to help out. At Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, a student recently organized a "Lose the Shoes" three-on-three barefoot soccer tournament that raised over $3,000 for Grassroot Soccer.

Harrison said there are many ways students can get involved with the program if they are interested.

"It takes only some creativity and a lot of organizational fortitude and follow-through."

PROVIDED PHOTO

UVic synchronized swimmers try to get a leg up by practising hard for their competitions.

Swimming with style

by Deborah Daudin

Every Tuesday at 5:30 a.m., when most people are not even close to waking up, a handful of UVic women are hard at work in the Commonwealth Pool.

Dedicated to their cause, these women are specialized swimmers who belong to the university's synchronized swimming club.

Making sure the team members stay in time with each other is essential. In this sport, the word "synchronized" refers to the synchronization of movements with music, yet team members have to be in sync as well. Before the team even works with music, they count out loud from one to eight as they practise, making sure their moves are co-ordinated.

The team spends their whole practice focusing on one number.

"It takes ages to put a number together," said club president Ferris Moxam. "The choreography changes constantly as we practise it. If a movement doesn't work because of a position or timing, it has to be changed." Although the team works with a coach who gives input, the choreography is done by the swimmers.

The dedication from UVic's swimmers is impressive. Despite their pre-dawn practice time, the team remains in the centre of the pool for ages, rehearsing parts of their routine and then treading water while they discuss the moves they just made. Treading water endlessly doesn't tire them—the swimmers admit it's so natural that they don't even notice they're doing it.

To be sure, synchronized swimmers at UVic don't have the notoriety in the same way that more competitive athletes do. Yet synchronized swimming demands strength and endurance just like any other sport.

On top of that, swimmers must display their flexibility in a graceful and artistic manner. Synchronized swimming is a hybrid of swimming, gymnastics and ballet and has been an Olympic sport since 1984.

In the '30s, the sport was performed at the Chicago and New York World's Fairs. At the 1940 World's Fair in San Francisco, American freestyle and breaststroke swimming champion Esther Williams performed water ballet sequences.

After the fair, MGM produced several "aqua musicals" featuring Williams, capitalizing on the popularity given to the sport by her. Only in Hollywood could song and dance be choreographed for a swimming pool.

Synchronized swimming continued to grow as a competitive sport but was originally a demonstration sport at the Olympics from 1948 until 1968. The International Olympic Committee finally accepted the duet and solo events as official entries at the 1984 Olympics. Eight-person teams were added in 1996.

UVic's team is currently practising for the Canadian University Synchronized Swimming League competition in Waterloo in February. The club will be staging a water show at UVic's McKinnon Pool in January to give the team an opportunity to perform, show their routines and raise money for the trip.

"It's a fairly expensive club to join because of the pool rental time, which can be a hindrance to some swimmers that might be interested in joining," Moxam said. "Also, the university competitions in Canada are all in the East, which makes the travel costs for competing higher."

Moxam would love to see more UVic students interested in the sport.

The team is planning some one-day workshops in the future to enable interested students to give the sport a try.

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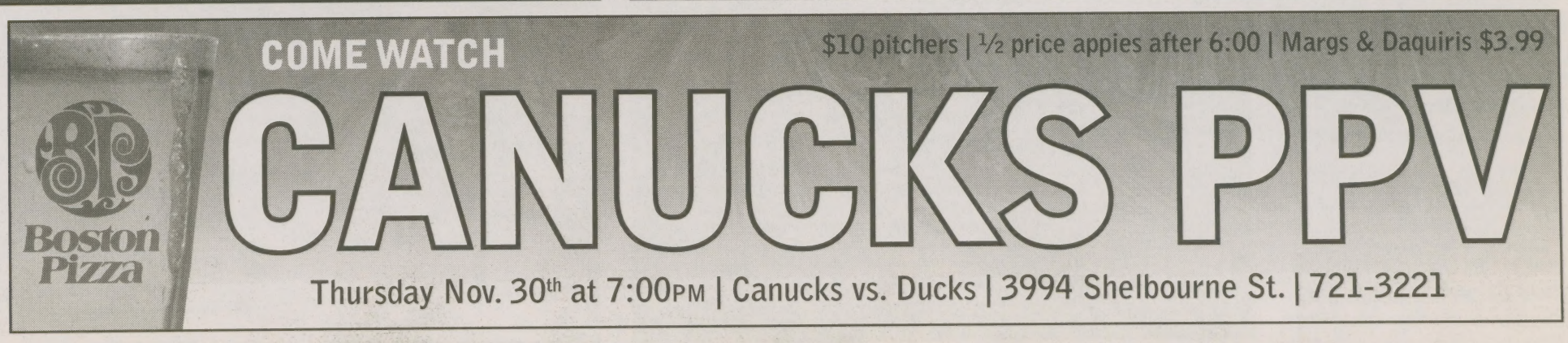
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SCOTT GRANT PHOTO

Mackenzie Downing broke two B.C. records at the Bell Canadian Grand Prix. Downing is pictured above at the Pan Pacific Championships in Victoria last summer.

Injured Downing wins three golds

by David Karp

Mackenzie Downing is bad at most sports.

"I have really bad knees, so I can't do anything with running at all," she admitted. "I'm terrible with rackets and balls." But when it comes to swimming, Downing is phenomenal.

The UVic swimmer won the 50-, 100- and 200-metre butterfly races at the Bell Canadian Grand Prix held on Nov. 25 and 26 in Toronto, breaking two B.C. records in the process. Downing is headed to Australia in March for the World Aquatic Championships, and if all goes well, she will travel to Beijing in August 2008 for the Summer Olympics.

"We've had kids make Olympic finals," said UVic coach Dr. Peter Vizsolyi. "But I've never really seen a kid accomplish what she accomplished at this meet. She managed to be like a different person in this meet."

Swimming is second nature for Downing, who grew up around swimming pools, because her mother was a lifeguard.

"I love being in the water. I love the feeling of it," she said. "I'm just more comfortable in the water than anywhere else."

But her success hasn't come without sacrifice. Growing up in Whitehorse, Downing would often have to take long car rides to Vancouver just to compete.

And the sacrifices haven't stopped. The swimmer has to make sure she gets enough sleep and eats healthy food. But sometimes, she just wants to be a normal 20-year-old.

"That's some of the hardest things—when you're tired and you don't want to make anything—you just want to eat a big pizza. Or you want to go out with your friends and party all night, and you can't," Downing said. But she insists the sacrifices are worth it.

The butterfly and freestyle swimmer spends 20 hours a week training in the pool in addition to her training on dry land. That means school work takes a back seat to swimming for the third-year humanities student.

"It's important that I do okay at school to be able to keep swimming for the university," said Downing. "School comes first if it's not going well, but other than that, swimming comes first."

In addition to physical training, Downing spends time watching videos in order to improve her technique.

"I'm going through watching clips of videos of someone doing one stroke over and over and over again, just trying to get everything perfect," she explained. "It gets boring, and it gets really frustrating when you can't do it."

And then there are injuries. Downing has suffered shoulder problems and two dislocated kneecaps in recent years. In fact, she swam injured at the Toronto race, which is what made her performance so impressive.

"She had these shooting pains every time she did a stroke," said Vizsolyi.

But Downing's pain and suffering is starting to pay off. She raced her first big international meet in Victoria at the Pan Pacific Championships in August, coming sixth and seventh in the 100- and 200-metre butterfly races, respectively.

"When you're at a big meet and when you're going your best time, the feeling of it is so amazing, it is such a high, that it is worth all the hours and all the frustration and swimming when it's not going well, it makes it all worth it," she said.

Now Downing is focusing on the Olympics. She's already met the qualifying standard but will need to repeat it at the national championships in order to qualify.

"She's not going to miss Beijing unless an injury or something happens," said Vizsolyi. "What [the Grand Prix] shows is that we're just scratching the surface of what she might be able to do."

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ON CAMPUS

Jung Society lecture: Karen Evers-Fahey. Individuation and Ego Defenses. Friday, Dec. 1, 2006 at 7:30 p.m, David Strong Building, C116. Members, $10; non-members, $15; full-time students, $5. Workshop, Sat., Dec. 2, 2006. 10 am to 3pm. Members, $115; non-members $125. This workshop is primarily for clinicians. At Health Point at Aberdeen Health Centre. Phone 388-7164 for information.

IN THE BEGINNING SWEATER VEST – Video art from ART170 & Beyond. A video presentation by students from Art 170. At The Superior Café. 106 Superior Café (next to Fisherman's Wharf in James Bay) Sunday December 3rd, 2006 7:00 p.m.

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The Environmental Law Club has many upcoming events in October and throughout the year. Please visit www.elc.uvic.ca/club for details on speakers, activities and campaigns as they become available. Thank you. rachelsqf@gmail.com

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WINNERS OF the Victoria Writers' Society's 6TH ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST will present their poems and stories, Dec. 6, 2006, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street. Guests Welcome. www.victoriawriters.org

On Sunday, December 3rd, at 2:30 p.m., VIVA Choirs presents the annual "Harmonies for the Holidays" concert at St. Aidan's United Church, 3703 St. Aidan's St., north of Richmond & Cedar Hill X Rd., featuring five choirs with conductors Connie Foss More and Nicholas Fairbank. Talented young singers share familiar and historical seasonal music from many cultures, including some with organ accompaniment. Tickets are $5 age 18 & under, $11 seniors, $12 adults at Long & McQuade Music (Hillside), Ivy's Bookshop (Oak Bay), or at the door. Call 472-2655 or check www.vivachoirs.ca for information.

On Saturday, December 9th, 11:30-noon, VIVA West Shore Choir presents "Seasonal Songs at Juan de Fuca" library branch at 1759 Island Highway, with conductor Connie Foss More. Enjoy familiar and historical seasonal music from many cultures performed & led by talented young singers aged 7-11. Admission is free, of course. Call 472-2655 or check www.vivachoirs.ca for information.

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Dear Lab 9: Lab 10 is the Loudest and Proudest — Andrew.

I'm not dead, I'm resting! -J

Ben, I would do anything for love ...but I wouldn't do that.

Merry Christmas John, Doris, Kim, Smang and the Andersens.

Jerry, left of the Chrysler over the bush in a little steel box, wrapped in foil you'll find the weed.

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SAM & FUZZY
©2006 BY SAM LOGAN
HEY SAM, WHY DID YOU WANT TO ASK ME OUT? I MEAN, BEFORE OUR FIRST DATE, YOU AND I HAD BARELY EVEN SPOKEN TO ONE ANOTHER.
UH...
...WELL, YOU'RE VERY... I MEAN, YOU HAVE A GREAT... UH... SHIRT. I REALLY LIKED YOUR SHIRT.
YOU CAN SAY IT WAS MY LOOKS, SAM. THAT'S USUALLY THE FIRST ATTRACTION IN EVERY RELATIONSHIP.
OH REALLY! OK, I THOUGHT YOU WERE CUTE. AND WHY DID YOU LIKE ME?
EVEN FROM THE FEW WORDS AND GLANCES WE EXCHANGED, I KNEW THAT YOUR SOUL WAS SINCERE AND PROFOUND.
I WANT TO DO MY ANSWER AGAIN.
ALSO, YOU ARE REALLY TALL.
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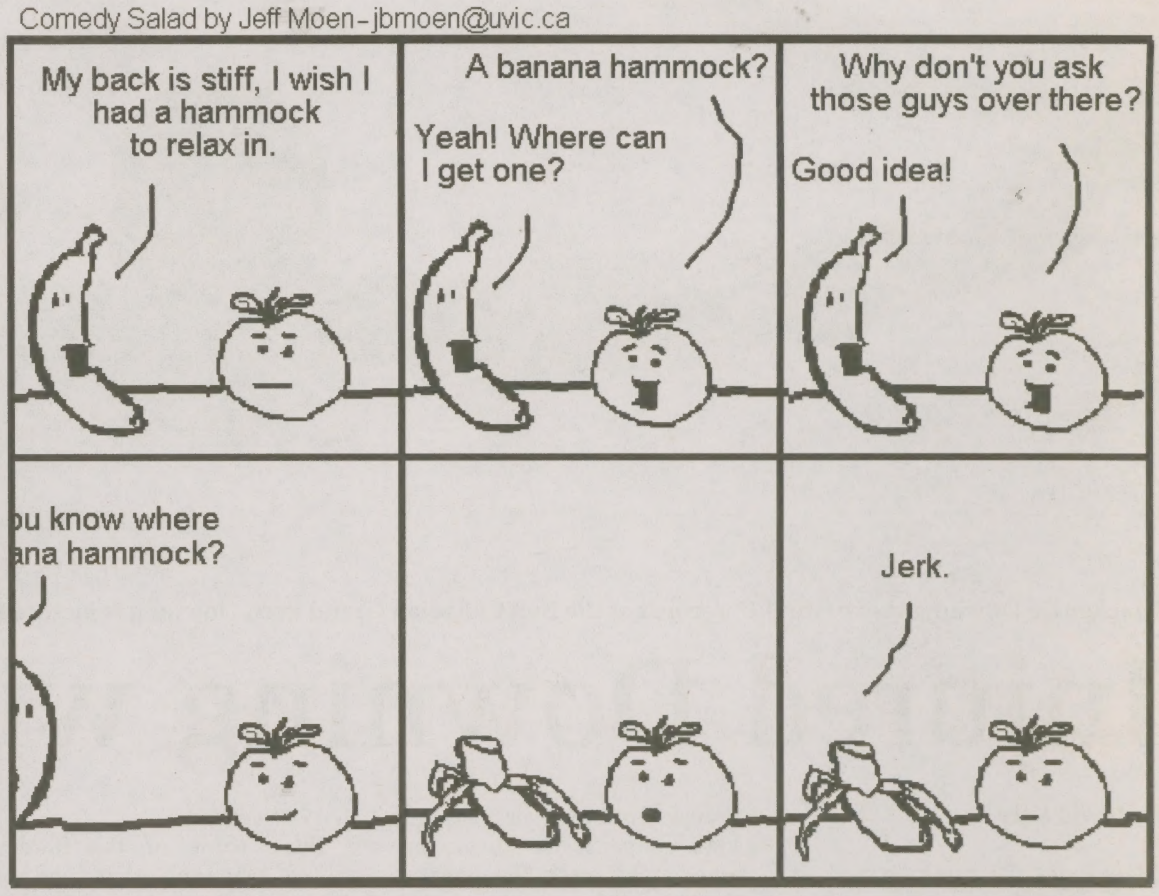
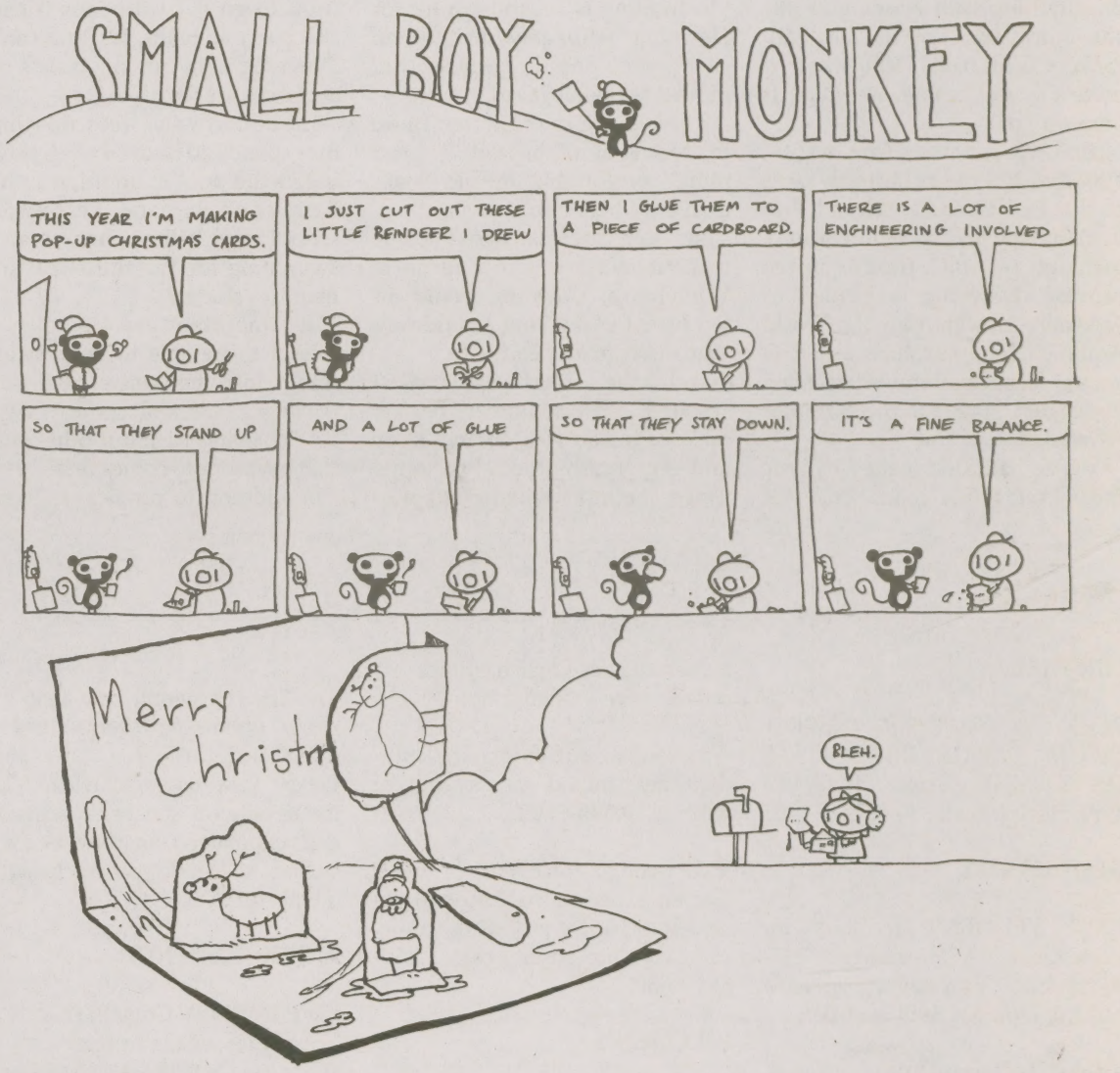
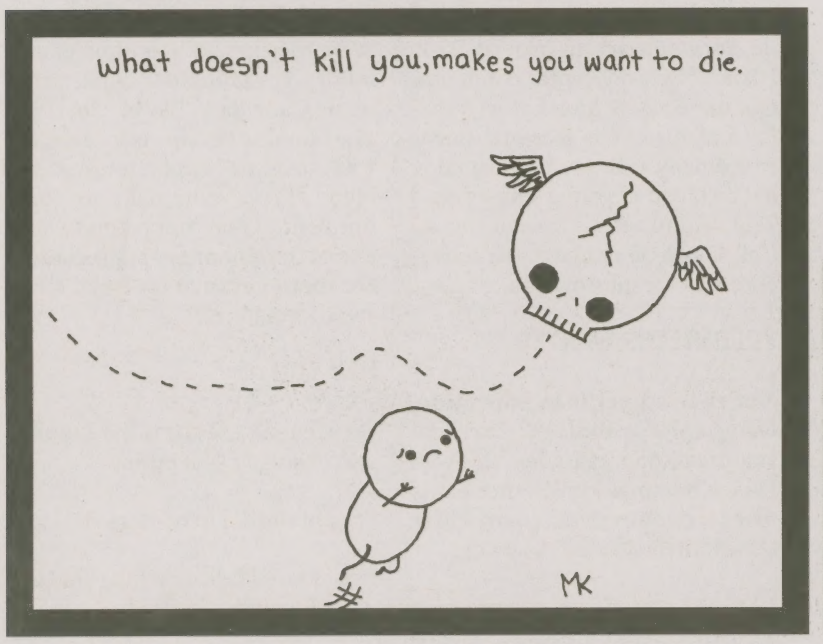
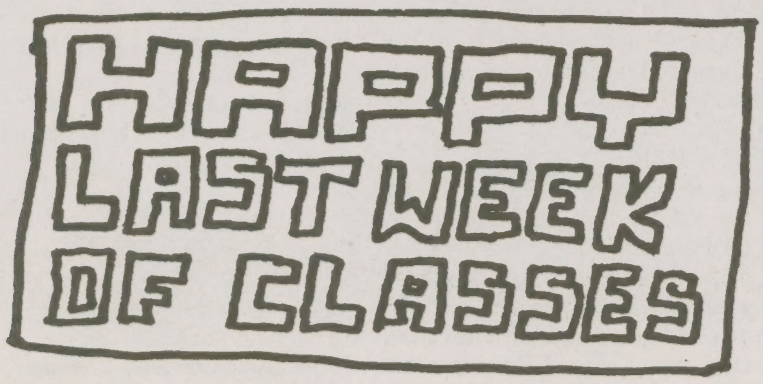
Comedy Salad by Jeff Moen - jbmoen@uvic.ca


My back is stiff, I wish I had a hammock to relax in.
A banana hammock?
Yeah! Where can I get one?
Why don't you ask those guys over there?
Good idea!
u know where ana hammock?
Jerk.


SMALL BOY: MONKEY
THIS YEAR I'M MAKING POP-UP CHRISTMAS CARDS.
I JUST CUT OUT THESE LITTLE REINDEER I DREW
THEN I GLUE THEM TO A PIECE OF CARDBOARD.
THERE IS A LOT OF ENGINEERING INVOLVED
SO THAT THEY STAND UP
AND A LOT OF GLUE
SO THAT THEY STAY DOWN.
IT'S A FINE BALANCE.
Merry Christm
BLEH.



le petit lapin noir par J.